

# RECREATION

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## CO-RECREATION



It's Easy to Have Fun!

By C. Leslie Updegraph

And Along Comes Hallowe'en

Evolution of Flint's Co-Ed Night

By Marie Watters

Co-Recreation in the "Heyday of Life"

Clubs Further Co-Recreational Objectives

Co-Recreation at the University of Wisconsin

By Reuben L. Hill and Mary MacKechnie

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# RECREATION

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# Boy Meets Girl

"**B**OY meets girl" has now been changed to "Girl meets boy," as the mother of any young man of eighteen will tell you. What is important is that girls and boys are still meeting as they have since Adam found Eve in the Garden of Eden. When they no longer meet life will be over, the planet will have cooled off and the earth will be a frozen place.

Why does the moon shine except that boys and girls may meet surrounded by greater beauty? Why do the flowers come out in the spring? Why are some ears of corn red? To what better use can the canoe be put? Why are picnics held? Why should church socials continue?

The time comes when the telephone is worth its weight in gold to boys and girls. They know at last for what purpose the automobile was invented. The young people's societies in the churches give a normal chance for boys and girls to see each other. Choirs and orchestras would justify themselves for the hours afterwards for the boys and girls on the way home. The 4-H has its place. Likewise the Hi-Y where boys and girls meet to discuss common problems. Amateur dramatics prepare Romeos and Juliets for later reality.

Young men and young women together enjoy softball, volleyball, badminton, ice skating, roller skating, swimming. Much may be said, without words as well as with, in dancing. The folk dances, the dances of the people, often have centuries behind them. Words are only one form of communication for the young in heart. The eyes and the whole body say much more. Youth is often inarticulate as far as words go.

Fortunate are the young men and the young women who live where the people through their homes, churches and their recreation centers and in all appropriate ways give opportunity for the young to be together without self-consciousness, without undue restraint, and naturally and easily to come to know each other. If the community leaves the boys and girls in the mating time of life to the road houses and more or less secret places, the community is responsible for what happens. All fathers and mothers know the urges of life, their depth, their power, their inevitability. The young man and the young woman will "pursue happiness" together just as surely as they will seek food and drink, and that which is most fundamental in nature cannot be ignored among any races in any climates in hard times or good times. What God hath instituted, let not men forget. "Wise men cooperate with the inevitable."

When one finds that his heart beats no more rapidly in the moonlight; when the mating season for boys and girls has lost its beauty for him; when he does not long for boys and girls to know each other so truly and with such understanding that they are sure whether they want to go on forever for better or for worse; when these major matters no longer grip and challenge all the ingenuity and creativeness for keeping a world natural and normal for young people, then one is old and cold whatever his age.

HOWARD BRAUCHER

# October



*Photo by Philip Gendreau*



# Co-Recreation in the "Heyday of Life"

*That youth may be the "heyday of life" that poets claim it to be, a number of national organizations are working, some for boys alone, others for girls. Inevitably, however, and naturally, co-recreation has entered into the programs of these groups. It has been perfectly normal for the girls to want to entertain boys on special social occasions and to include them in activities such as drama and music. Boys have wished to share with their sisters and friends many of their pleasures. And so we find Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and Boys' Club members enjoying certain of their activities together.*

## Boys and Girls Together

By C. FRANCES LOOMIS

Camp Fire Girls, Inc.

THOSE WHO HAVE been to the New York World's Fair come away with the refrain *boys and girls together* ringing in their ears (from that old time song "The Sidewalks of New York"). The tractor trains use that melody to warn people from their path and it reminds us that, old as the song is, co-recreation is a good deal older. In fact, looking through the very first volume of our magazine, then called *Wohelo* and published twenty-seven years ago, we find accounts of treasure hunts, hikes, cook-outs, and parties not so different from the scavenger hunts, camping trips, and dances which leaders describe in their most recent reports as being vastly enjoyed by Camp Fire Girls and boys together.

Quite often, now as then, a Boy Scout leader and a Camp Fire Guardian unostentatiously pull the strings that bring about a boy-girl party which the youngsters feel they have initiated themselves. Often at camp it has been possible to arrange for an exchange of hospitality with a nearby boys' camp, the boys being invited for some special occasion and vice versa. Square dancing, softball, rodeos and stunts have been popular forms of entertainment for these events—and always, of course, eats.

### Out-of-Camp Trips Together

Sometimes the boys and girls take out-of-camp trips together, usually at the close of the camping season and always, of course, with adequate leadership. Typical of such trips are the following:

Older campers and counselors at Camp Sweyolaken (on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho,) will remember with pleasure the fifteen mile canoeing trip taken with Boy Scouts. Directly after breakfast they embarked, paddling along the lake shore to their first stop, where they viewed the Indian sign writing. The second stop was at Pilot Rock for more sights, and renewed energy from chocolate bars thoughtfully provided by the boys. Then on to the Girl Scout camp after battling wind and waves, arriving pretty much drenched. A hearty dinner, then rest hour in the tents—and that rest was appreciated! A sightseeing tour of camp, then homeward bound, with a stop at Arrow Beach, where they cooked supper and the girls reciprocated the courtesy of the morning by making fudge. They arrived at their home camps in time for taps (almost). Needless to say, the girls did their full share of the paddling and it was a day full of excitement, friendliness and good sportsmanship.

Girls at the Portland, Oregon, camp who have shown special skill in camp craft are privileged to share a horseback trip with Boy Scouts, which, after several days of riding and camping, leads them to a Boy Scout camp near the sea. Committees of the boys and girls together plan their supplies. The girls learn to be adept in stowing their packs, caring for their horses, and helping to make camp at night. The boys are handy with the skillets, and altogether it is an experience of fun, work, and friendship shared and enjoyed.

In the winter time ski trips are planned in many cities for boys and girls together. A report from Seattle, Washington, tells of annual trips with YMCA boys which are typical of the good time enjoyed. "The days, of course, were spent out of doors—most of the time on skis; the evenings in front of the huge fire in the lodge, dancing to

polka and schottische records, talking, singing, and playing games. The girls taught the boys to dance and the boys taught the girls to stem and christie—a fair exchange, we thought, and fun all around."

These trips, hikes, and cook-outs are, of course, in addition to the parties and many other good times shared by the boys and girls, but they have the added advantage that the youngsters are working together on something which challenges their skill and obliterates self consciousness. As a good outdoor mixer we recommend a John Smith party. To quote Janet McKeller's directions in the *Camp Fire Girls Outdoor Book*\*:

"All I can remember of the picturesque early history of Virginia is John Smith's mandate to the community—'Those that do not work may not eat'—and although I would present the formula indirectly after the manner of the shrewd psychologists of the day, it seems a good point of departure for any sort of cook-out whether of small numbers where everybody tries or wants to do everything, or the large group—oh, up to two hundred—where there is much opportunity for the easy going to sluff responsibility and for the 'born leader' types to come to a clash over how this or that shall be done. It's valuable for the outings that include boys and girls, since each has a non-negotiable job and Mary and Bill will not go for a pail of water and get lost on the longest way home—and since by its terms the girls do not do all the cooking while the boys tease, or the boys exploit their skill in frying and flipping while the girls stand by and giggle.

"First plan the menu carefully and list all the work to be done. Be sure to include gathering wood, peeling onions, frying bacon, setting table, serving, clean up and fires out. Have as many jobs as persons. An attractive little meal ticket is given to each—folded, mind you—and on the inside is a notation something like this: 'Good for food for one supper on September 15th. To validate, holder is invited (shall—is instructed) to keep the fires burning and see that they are properly put out.'

"or 'To cash in, holder will fry the bacon and onions for chowder.'

"or 'Valid only after holder has toasted twelve slices of bread golden brown on both sides.'

"Someone is John Smith—the leader. The group might first be divided into two sections, i.e., on arrival—one division to gather wood for ten minutes, the other (and smaller) division to spread out provisions so the whole group can work without confusion.

"The meal should be ready to serve and all should eat at one time. After the meal those who have worked may sing while the 'cleaners up' and 'fire put-outers' finish their work. This should keep everyone busy and happy."

Perhaps, though the account of the canoe trip did not include their menu, they roasted corn, which is fun for an outdoor supper in September.

Open the husks and pull out the silk, any damaged kernels or extras. Then twist the husks together at the top and soak them in salted water. Bury them in the hot ashes of the fire you have had going for some time and build it up over them for your coffee or whatever other cooking you are doing. The corn will be done in about twenty minutes. Be sure to have plenty of butter and salt ready. Watermelon, which has been cooling in the lake or brook, is a grand finale for a corn roast.

Judging from reports of happy boy and girl festivities, we would say that the secret of success is to give them plenty to do—and plenty of eats. As with all activities, the more responsibilities the youngsters have for planning and running off the events the more they enjoy them and the more worthwhile the experience is. One Guardian, made wise from experience, says that she puts the noisiest or hardest-to-manage boys and girls on the entertainment committee and they never fail to rise to the occasion.

We find less urge for co-recreation among the ten and eleven year olds and do not force it during this period when many youngsters are enjoying a spell of hearty antagonism toward the opposite sex. For girls a little older, when they are really getting interested in boys but don't want to say so, rather impersonal group-and-group projects where the boys and girls can work or play together seem to be the answer. As the girls advance into their teens, they prefer to ask their individual friends, and the smoothest arrangement seems to be to have girls give the invitation committee the names of the boys they want invited.

Our Guardians seems to feel that co-recreation is to be desired and girls enjoy it. It is the parents who sometimes need a bit of persuading—a little help in untying the apron strings.

## Getting Along with the "Other Fifty Per Cent"

By ANNE L. NEW  
Public Relations Division  
Girl Scouts, Inc.

ONE OF THE principal purposes of any group work agency is to help its members get along better with other people. Approximately fifty per cent of the "other people" in any girl's life are boys and men. The Girl Scouts

\* Camp Fire Outfitting Company, 197 Greene Street, New York City. 50c.

believe therefore that Girl Scouting should include activities which help a girl to get along with her fellow citizens of the opposite sex.

It is easy to state thus briefly the general Girl Scout philosophy of co-recreational activities. In practice, the Senior Girl Scouts (Girl Scouts who are from fourteen to eighteen years old) are the group most interested in boy and girl projects. Senior Girl Scouts have reached the age at which they feel keenly the need for adjusting themselves to boys as friends, some of whom may become their husbands in the future. Many of them must make family adjustments, getting acquainted with father's as well as mother's point of view on teen-age problems.

#### They Enjoy These Together

The Girl Scout program provides many opportunities for girls and boys to work and play together. Not just at parties but in dramatic groups, sports, excursions, and in other undertakings.

One Senior Girl Scout troop invited a Boy Scout troop to square dancing every two weeks. The same groups went for walks in the country as part of their study of local trees and flowers. Everyone had such a good time that the boys asked to have the joint affairs continued another year.

Senior Girl Scout Mariners and their leaders often find it interesting and valuable to carry out program plans with Sea Scouts. They sail together, visit Coast Guard stations and other points of marine interest. Sometimes the girls are invited to attend one of the boys' demonstrations of seamanship and the girls cook dinner for the party afterward. The Cod Fish Ball given by one group of Mariners is one of the important social events of the season for the younger set of their town. Money is raised and spent, decorations are planned and constructed, the program of the evening and re-

freshments are prepared—all by the girls themselves.

In some communities where there is no suitable place for young people's gatherings, the Senior Girl Scouts have renovated any old building that might be available, turning it into a recreation hall where chaperoned parties for girls and boys are run by the girls at cost or at a small profit to the troop.

Reading plays, building scenery, acting, and producing has brought girls and boys together in one Pennsylvania town. Getting along with boys as people and fellow workmen helps these girls to find poise in all their social relationships.

In Iowa girls and boys got together to raise money at a carnival. They made plans and preparations for games, booths, refreshments, a recreation room for social dancing, entertainment, tickets, music, publicity, and decorations. Many weeks of effort went into the project which turned out to be well worth the energy expended. Six hundred people came, although only two hundred had been expected. It was a financial success, and, best of all, it was such a social success that it started a series of joint boy and girl activities. There was cooperation and mutual sharing of responsibility to the greater benefit of all concerned.

Winter sports have provided many opportunities for boy and girl projects in communities



"Paul Parker Photo"



where such sports are possible. In upper New York State girls choose a winter Snow Queen and, at her crowning, stage a carnival for boys and girls. The day includes skating, snow-shoeing, and ice sculpture for all.

Girl Scout experiments with boy and girl camping have been carried out in various places for some years. A joint mountain climbing camp has been conducted in one community, and, in another town, boys and girls have come together to take short mountain expeditions. Boys from a Y.M.C.A. camp have been invited to share certain activities of a neighboring Girl Scout camp and in many other ways joint camping has been practiced. The Girl Scout organization plans to explore more and more the possibilities of such camping enterprises.

The Girl Scout program includes ten fields of interest: the out-of-doors, nature, sports and games, community life, literature and dramatics, arts and crafts, music and dancing, international friendship, health and safety, homemaking and, for Senior Girl Scouts, an eleventh-vocational exploration. Social adjustments, so important to girls of teen age, are not included as a special field of interest in the Senior Girl Scout program. Leaders learn that these social adjustments may be made in connection with any part of the program.

Even the compilation and publication of a cook book was made a joint project by a group of New England Girl and Boy Scouts. Girls and boys who are too likely to think of each other only as dance partners or playmates sometimes need the experience of working rather than playing together. The wise Senior Girl Scout leader is urged to meet this need wherever possible.

#### Why Not Father, Too?

There is one other type of co-recreational activity which is seldom touched upon as such, but which is nevertheless important. Girls need to get



"Paul Parker Photo"

along, not only with boys their own age but with older men, for they will not go out into a world peopled wholly by young people. Father-daughter activities have long been a part of Girl Scouting. Fathers may serve on troop committees or help daughters do the heavy work in building a meeting place. The father who likes to whittle and the daughter

who is interested in Girl Scout arts and crafts, the father who likes to camp and the daughter who knows how, the father who likes to eat and the daughter who can cook—these are Girl Scout fathers and daughters who find new bases for friendship and understanding, bridging a gap between the male and the female, the old generation and the new.

## Co-Recreation in the Boys' Club

By ELIZABETH MORROW MCSTEA  
Boys' Clubs of America

CO-RECREATION in Boys' Clubs is not carried on to the same extent nor emphasized to the same degree as in those agencies which deliberately assume the dual function of service to boys and girls.

It has been most generally assumed that straight-line Boys' Clubs are designed primarily to conduct a boys' program, exclusively, in a building where activities for boys are central. But from time to time club directors throughout the land are beset by puzzled little girls who would like to know why provision has not been made for them, and frequently the young female artists bring pressure to bear on Brother in the hope that he may persuade leaders at the Boys' Club to allow Sister to attend some special activity. This has been the



entering wedge in the greater number of those Boys' Clubs which are either successfully conducting programs for girls in conjunction with that for boys, or the gradually increasing number of clubs which have found the necessity for experimenting with the co-recreational idea during these years of depression.

The co-recreational phase of the Boys' Club program may be classified under three distinct headings as follows: (1) programs conducted for the senior membership of the Boys' Club providing mixed dancing classes, parties, dramatics, glee clubs, musical groups, occasional outings or picnics; (2) programs organized for girls on a departmental basis, with joint participation in selected activities; (3) programs deliberately planned for girls similar to those conducted for boys, but under separate leadership, with separate building, facilities, and budget.

#### A Few Examples

**Worcester Leads the Way.** In 1916 the Worcester Boys' Club first experimented in the field of co-recreation with dancing parties three evenings a week following basketball games. The program was confined to the senior membership. But the depression made it apparent that there was a need to bolster the morale of the Club's youth, and so there evolved the ten-cent dances at the Boys' Club where young men and women up to the age of twenty-three might enjoy music and dancing under proper supervision. The success and ease with which the dances were conducted led the leaders to organize co-recreational "Splash" parties on Sundays, followed by games and box lunches.

Basing opinion on twenty-three years of experience, the Worcester Boys' Club leaders believe that co-recreation in the Boys' Club should be restricted to the senior membership because of the difficulty of holding within the club, for any length of time, large numbers of youth over seventeen. On the other hand, it is believed that there is a definite need of a program strictly for boys under seventeen.

The Worcester community now has its own Girls' Club, which takes care of part of the girl problem. Boys are invited to attend dances given at the Girls'

Club and frequently participate in many activities at stated times.

**In Mount Vernon and West Orange.** Similar in development to Worcester has been the co-recreational program conducted at the Boys' Club of Mount Vernon, New York, and at the Valley Boys' Club in West Orange, New Jersey, in that all have tried to cooperate in recognizing that there are girls as well as boys who lack the normal recreational privileges accorded more fortunate youth. These clubs, in conjunction with their Boys' Club program, conduct dances, dramatics and musical groups as well as mixed outings. The Mount Vernon Boys' Club last year organized a Junior Women's Auxiliary composed of young women between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five. This group renders service to the club in any way possible, sometimes acting as volunteer leaders in the library for the five-to-eight-year-olds. Frequently they assist with the organization of activities for girls ten-to-fourteen. In their sewing classes they make dish towels and new covers for camp mattresses, and conduct cooking classes. The gymnasium is made available to them one day each week at specified hours. In addition, the older girls invite speakers to their group meetings on program including health discussions, recreation, home-making, clothes design and selection, and cooking.

The younger girls are divided into club groups. They hold meetings in the afternoons and do not conflict with the boys' meetings which are held in the evenings.

The programs in these clubs have been well received. The community has recognized this broader service, bringing about a closer relationship between the club and the parents. The conduct of the older boys is noticeably improved, and new activities have been added with no additional cost.

#### The Children's Aid Society Experiments.

The Children's Aid Society, which for years has been serving boys and girls, has had no difficulty in conducting joint activities under one roof. More than eight years ago their industrial evening classes were disbanded, and provision was made for boys' and girls' clubs.

"There are 200,000 youth between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four in Los Angeles. Only thirty per cent of them are in organized clubs and associations, yet the second most popular request of these young people is for a club organization where they may meet and work with other young people."—From the record of a "trial" of the community in a complaint that its youth were not being adequately served by local agencies.

Girls were handled in the same manner as boys, the tendency being to adapt the tried program of the former to the needs of the latter. Girls register, are examined by a physician, and hold membership tickets. The greater number of activities which interest boys are adopted by the girls, sometimes in a modified form, and the program itself is frequently enriched by the joint participation of the two sexes.

The Children's Aid Society provides separate game rooms and gymnasiums for boys and girls, and separate rooms for some craft activities, but beyond these limitations boys and girls fourteen and over combine dancing classes, educational trips, socials, library programs, dramatics, some craft and hobby activities, and playground interests.

**Girls Included in Little Rock.** The Little Rock Boys' Club at Little Rock, Arkansas, has a girl membership of several hundred. Although the building, when originally planned, was designed for the use of boys only, a separate girls' shower and locker room was included in order that the swimming pool might be made available to girls during stated hours on two days of each week. But even this provision was the result of community feeling that too much was being done for the boy population of the community in proportion to what was being done for girls who were their sisters or who came from families whose circumstances were similar.

The Women's Auxiliary of the Little Rock Boys' Club cooperated in augmenting the Boys' Club program to include the joint activities now enjoyed by both boys and girls. Additional leadership was provided in this case for the swimming pool and for some special activities.

**With the Boston Clubs.** The Boys' Clubs of Boston, Massachusetts, is recognized as having a particularly fine set-up for girls, with a complete program apart from that work conducted in behalf of the boys. Mixed groups, however, enjoy special recreation programs and activities together. The Bunker Hill Girls' Club has a separate entrance into the building with separate rooms, leadership, administrative staff and budget, under the central supervision of the Boys' Clubs of Boston.

**"50-50" with the Chicago Clubs.** Two of the eight clubs of the Chicago Boys' Clubs have for the past eight years conducted co-recreational programs, occupying a separate building unit in

one case, and in the other sharing the facilities of one building. Under the age of fifteen years, success has been attained in such activities as library, the arts and low organized games. Social dancing, swimming, picnic and beach parties have been limited to the older groups, as well as the more highly organized gymnastics, civic and social clubs. Approximately one-half program time is devoted to co-recreational activities.

Those clubs having camps which serve girls as well as boys provide quarters and camping facilities on the same grounds, but conduct co-recreational activities only to a limited extent. Separate leadership and program activities do not prevent occasional joint participation on set occasions.

It would seem that the co-recreational program in the Boys' Club is taking hold, with more clubs making their facilities available to girls on a joint participation basis. By and large, this is due to the great number of older boys and young adults who are stranded midway on the thin supporting bridge between the school terminus and the employment agency. Normal social relations between the sexes are rendered difficult, if not impossible, because of lack of funds, and with marriage indefinitely postponed there is a growing conviction that it is both natural and necessary to move gradually toward a fuller recognition of youths' plight and make way for desirable mixed activities.

Insofar as the age groups affected by this program adjustment are concerned, it cannot be said with any degree of accuracy at just what early age the co-recreational program can be manifestly most effective. This will depend, finally, on the community and more specifically on that sector of the community served by the club. So frequently development and maturity are conditioned by nationality and old world traditions.

There are many additional problems—those affecting the objectives of the Boys' Club, the membership at large, and finally, leadership. But these will all have to be carefully examined and analyzed and leveled off before the pattern will become objectively visible. All such conditions and difficulties are now being studied by the National Advisory Program Committee of the Boys' Clubs of America and other working committees, and particularly by the newly appointed Commission on the Older Boy.

# "Come and See Lincoln's Youth Program"

ONE OF OUR most interesting experiments in co-recreation here in Lincoln grew out of a special and urgent need in the Whittier Junior High School. The location of this school in a busy business and industrial section made it natural for the pupils—a majority of whom do not go home for lunch—to congregate at noon hour in drug stores, railroad yards and other places where their unsupervised time was not always wisely spent.

## Noon Hour Programs

A program of athletic games which had been held successfully for some years was only a partial antidote to the noon hour difficulty. Nor did the opening of the library for reading, the showing of educational films and other measures undertaken by an inadequate number of teachers prove effective.

The Recreation Department, called upon to solve the problem, did so by putting on a large-scale program of social games and crafts. At our suggestion four of the schools' Industrial Art shops and adjoining corridors were thrown open for checkers, lotto, dominoes, jig-saw puzzles, peg games, croquinoles, anagrams, parchesi, helma, the tremendously popular fiddle sticks, ping-pong, shuffleboard, billiards and handcrafts (the making of candlewick articles, knitted articles and reed baskets).

So attractive has this program proved that even "corner store addicts" who were loath at first to return to the fold have become eager converts. The success of the program is due both to the set-up and the organization of the program. The informal appearance of the game rooms—contrasted with the rigidity of the regular classrooms—helped psychologically in making the program appealing. To furnish the rooms, cellars and attics, ransacked for needed furniture, yielded a crop of old tables, chairs and even stage properties. Some ancient opera seats, planks on sawhorses, stumps of

By RUTHALEE HOLLOWAY

Assistant Superintendent  
Recreation Board  
Lincoln, Nebraska

"We cannot say in Lincoln, 'Come and see our complete co-recreational program,' but we can say, and warmly, 'Come and see our beginnings of a program.' We believe in good beginnings—not spectacular displays but a slow development founded on careful planning. If any recreation worker from afar should drop in on us, we'll be happy to exchange experiences on this vital subject. With those whom we shall not have the pleasure of entertaining in our city we'll compare notes here in *Recreation* on the progress we've all made in this new-old department of human happiness."

trees, and boxes served as seats. Games were bought, donated or made in the school shops or by the workmen of the Recreation Board.

The program was in charge of six workers supplied by the Recreation Department. The principal of the school assumed responsibility for overseeing the project as a whole and served as a bulwark in the matter of discipline. One teacher was very helpful in patrolling the neighborhood and recruiting boys and girls to learn games.

In order to encourage attendance by pupils who were timid and backward, small groups were permitted to spend the afternoon home room period learning to play games under direction of the recreation leaders. One group of special problem girls met twice a week, acquiring skills that would prepare them for successful participation in Girl Reserve or Camp Fire programs and would interest them in higher standards. In a short time these non-adjusted units became oriented and joined in activities. Some of the needy pupils were supplied with handcraft materials.

Committees of boys and girls were organized to help in the management of this program. Committee members served as doorkeepers, instructed pupils in the games, acted as game referees, and helped to enforce the necessary rules of conduct. Each committee member wore a civic league badge which marked him as an officer to whom authority had been delegated.

Other Lincoln junior high schools and even grade schools, profiting by the example of Whittier Junior High School, have established noon hour programs. The only limit to the expansion of the work is the ability to provide leadership.

## Youth Nights

Table tennis outfits and other game equipment which had been acquired for the noon hours—plus facilities of one of the school plants furnished



through the cooperation of the superintendent of schools—were made to do extra duty in Youth Nights. These Nights were designed for out-of-school young people, many of whom were unemployed, others of whom came from homes where they would not feel free to entertain their friends. The names of the young people were obtained from the high schools, which supplied lists of graduates and those who had dropped out. Tickets were given to these young people and to others reached through the P.T.A. A varied recreational program was offered under Recreation Department leadership, social dancing being omitted because of community sentiment.

We were pleased with the response to our musical games and mixers. The eighteen-piece Lincoln Civic Orchestra (a WPA unit) played for the mixers and added much to the atmosphere of the affairs.

#### **Gay Colors in New Game Center**

Lincoln's youth has responded ardently to our new downtown game center, formerly a basement miniature golf concession. The original wall murals depicting outdoor scenes were brightened; three colorful shuffleboard courts were built in side by side on a wood flooring with removable side boards between adjacent courts. A large shuffleboard score board is part of the decorative scheme and there is a built-in seat for players who are waiting their turns. Fifteen spectators' benches were moved from the golf locker rooms and painted a bright apple green. Besides twelve new table tennis tables with low adjustable overhead lights and three undersized badminton courts for use when the tennis tables are not set up, the room boasts a dart ball corner, an orchestra platform and shell with piano and victrola radio, and a lounge containing armchairs, lamps and tables for quiet games. There are gay curtains, dull blue-violet colored waste baskets and flower pots of the same shade filled with bright flowers. Provision is made for whisking the whole place into a social dancing room by storing the tables behind a curtain under the stairway and removing the divisions between the shuffleboard courts.

Needless to add, every possible hour is scheduled for activities in the game center. The full possibilities of this room are yet to be realized. It is the hope of the

Board that this center will pave a way for other such arrangements in Lincoln. The cooperative interest on the part of the business men has been splendid.

#### **Associated Youth Clubs**

The game center is made available to groups of young people by tickets for designated evenings of socialized sports, musical mixers and social dancing. These groups—young people's small clubs in different parts of the city, organized with varied purposes such as music, drama or handicrafts—are affiliated as Associated Youth Clubs, each club being represented by two officers in an inter-city council. We are happy to furnish part-time leadership to these clubs whenever possible.

#### **Youth in the Community Centers**

Our community centers are comparatively small. At each of the six, however, provision is made for the socialized activities such as table tennis, shuffleboard, dart baseball, table games and crafts. Special time is allotted to the different age groups for tournaments, parties and special events. It is our plan that those groups made up of young men and women over sixteen years of age organize as local clubs of the Associated Youth Club. This will offer them an opportunity to mix with young people from other sections of the city and will answer that urge to belong.

#### **Social Recreation Service to Youth**

In the fall and winter the Recreation Department is called upon to serve many groups, such as churches, schools, fraternal organizations, the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A., by suggesting activities or providing leadership. Naturally a large part of this service is given to mixed groups of young people. As an example of this type of service, the Y.M.C.A.'s private game rooms for which we have furnished leadership for several years might be mentioned. Need for the service arose when so many boys and girls turned out for roller skating periods at the "Y" that not all could be accommodated at the first session. The problem of what to do with the overflow was finally neatly solved by instituting the two private game rooms—one a quiet game room and one an active game room (the latter containing a piano, shuffleboard and ping-pong)—where

"Young folks are interested in getting together in large groups of their own age. They like to have a little larger cruising radius than that provided in their own neighborhoods or church groups."—*James C. Lewis*, Superintendent of Recreation, Lincoln, Nebraska.



under leadership the youngsters fill in the time happily.

Our recreation leaders find these opportunities to work with outside groups particularly interesting; they especially enjoy putting on programs of musical games and square dancing. One type of program which they have found very popular is the progressive mixer. Each guest receives an individual card giving a list of activities in which he is to engage at given periods. A whistle announces a change which scatters the participants in a given activity, so that for each period every player meets a different group.

#### Church Family Night

There is no reason why an occasional get-together may not desirably include both parents and children of all ages. Such an affair is the weekly Family Night held by one of the Lincoln churches, for which leadership is drawn from the church staff, the Recreation Board's staff, and volunteers of the church, University and community. After a covered dish supper and a stage program, the mothers, fathers, and children disperse to meet in groups of their choice for religious discussion, handcrafts, hobbies, music and drama. After two such periods they reassemble in the church gymnasium for a period of social recreation. Those families with small children then depart and the young adults remain for musical mixers.

#### Young People in the Governor's Mansion

Pulling social chestnuts out of fires is one of the things the Recreation Board does best. A few years ago we had an opportunity to salvage a particularly hot handful of chestnuts—in fact to solve what threatened to become a community problem. In the governor's mansion is a recreation room which the governor's wife graciously decided rightfully belonged to the young people of Lincoln and should be made available to them. Accordingly she issued an invitation to them. The young guests came and behaved rather badly, to the horror of the more easily shockable citizens.

Since it was realized that the trouble was lack of leadership, the adolescent offenders were offered another chance and subsequent parties—

"More and more we are emphasizing the importance of providing co-recreational activities which boys and girls may enjoy together. We know from experience that such participation is conducive to a normal, natural, social relationship on the part of both sexes which is invaluable in bringing about desirable individual development. We have noted a more wholesome attitude on the part of both sexes through their intermingling in leisure-time activities and programs."—*Minnette B. Spector, Department of Playground and Recreation, Los Angeles.*

held under supervision of the Recreation Board—have had better luck all around. At first suggestions for novelty activities were not well received, but before long they came to be the most popular part of the program. The program dance, although new to these boys and girls, helped greatly in keeping them in the dance room. The parties have come to be weekly af-

fairs and the plan now is to reopen in the fall on a club basis. Any young person may join who is willing to abide by a set of rules established by a committee chosen by the group. Each week a committee of young people will plan and present a program under the leadership of the Recreation Board.

#### Community Theater and Marionette Guild

The Lincoln Community Theater functions under two divisions: the workshop and the three-act-production division. The workshop, which is the experimental division, provides trained leadership for those who have had little training or experience. It offers its members opportunity to participate in acting and in the allied arts of the theater. Two weekly classes are scheduled in play direction and make-up. Two one-act plays are prepared for each monthly meeting of the organization. The three-act-play division of the Community Theater is composed of the more experienced actors and stagecrafters.

The Marionette Guild, rejoicing in a well equipped shop and a portable stage, is making progress in the construction, costuming and manipulation of marionettes.

#### Surprise Feature in Outing Clubs

A novel quirk in the Lincoln Outing Club program is the element of surprise. The membership is informed as to what type of clothing to wear or equipment to bring, but usually does not know the plans of the committee or destination of the trip. The club meets once a month—sometimes oftener—for ice-skating, bob-sled rides, sled sliding, snow games, hikes, swims, picnics, overnight excursions and exchange outings with other Nebraska groups. The Recreation Department

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# Training Social Recreation Leaders Can Be Fun!

**A** SOCIAL RECREATION institute for the development and training of volunteer leaders is an indispensable part of any well-organized, year-round recreation system. The problem is to determine the type of institute which will attract the greatest number of leaders and keep them actively interested after the institute is over.

Ever since the Cedar Rapids Department of Recreation was organized back in 1925, the fall of each year included in its activities a social recreation institute. This occurred with such regularity that it soon became a custom. It differed from year to year in subject matter as well as organization. One year, every night for two weeks found the group playing and learning together; another year, it was held one night a week for ten weeks. Still another year, short three session institutes were conducted for various special groups, such as P.T.A. recreation, church recreation and Farm Bureau recreation, thus making it possible to work out programs to fit definite needs.

Each year the institute was planned in hopes of finding the ideal type of organization which would meet the greatest need of the community as well as have the most lasting effect. Each year, though much fine leadership was discovered and many fine volunteers were trained, we did not feel completely satisfied. After personal invitations were sent to all churches, lodges, P.T.A.'s and other groups that had sought assistance during the year, and a general invitation was extended through the newspaper, the group would consist mainly of the same faithful ones who had responded year after year. To make things still more discouraging, we kept receiving just as many requests from the various groups for social recreation leadership. Many of them were groups, who, having been invited to send a representative to the institute, failed to do so. Others had, perhaps, sent a leader, but had found he lost interest when the going got tough and he had to plan a program unassisted.

Then Ethel Bowers of the National came to town for a two-day institute. Two very enthusi-

**By NEVIN NICHOLS**  
Superintendent of Recreation  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**We hear much about the importance of leadership in a program of co-recreation. Here is a recreation leader who has some practical suggestions to give us on methods of training the necessary leadership.**

astic evening classes in social recreation were conducted by Miss Bowers, who made contacts with local women's organizations during her short stay. From these contacts came the nucleus which later developed into the Party of the Month Club.

In every community there can be found several people who make a hobby of game

leadership, and our city was no exception. Five people, two men and three women, were called in by the Superintendent of Recreation to lay the plans for this new system of social recreation training. It was first decided that a monthly meeting would be most successful because most people were able and willing to give one night a month to this activity. The first Monday of each month was selected as the date, thus allowing a program especially planned for that month to be used. Each participant then could take back and put on for his own organization the party presented. It was further decided that the party would be held in a different church in a different section of the city each month, thus working no hardship on any particular church and taking the program to the community rather than bringing the community to the program.

Each program was to be approximately an hour in length and was to be conducted according to Miss Bower's outline for a social recreation team consisting first of all of a master of ceremonies, who should be a man with a good loud speaking voice, and pleasing personality, to act as host and conduct the pre-party games. He would also handle disciplinary problems when necessary, see that the room to be used was well ventilated and that necessary chairs were available. Further, he was to be prepared to assist any other leader who might need his help. Other members of the team would consist of an active games leader, to take charge of all walking and running games; a quiet games leader, to conduct the less strenuous games; a musical games leader for the grand march figures, musical mixers and folk dances; and a song leader, not necessarily a finished musician but en-

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# Social Dancing in the Co-Recreation Program

*Of all the activities which seek a place on the co-recreational program, the social dance inevitably makes the loudest bid for favor. For it seems to answer most nearly the need of young people for rhythm, romance, and large mixed group social gatherings—the "wider cruising area," as one recreation executive describes it. To give boys and girls these desiderata and yet throw around them the best safeguards of society—this is the recreation leader's problem. How he is meeting it is told with remarkable interest, we feel, in this section and in scattered paragraphs in this issue.*

## Summer Dances for Teen Ages

By JENA V. HOLLAND

State Supervisor

Women's and Children's Activities

Utah Works Progress Administration

**N**O WONDER Provo boys and girls want to dance in the summer—as well as all the rest of the year! Everyone dances in Utah! From square dances intricately executed by grandmother and grandfather, to the Lambeth Walk enjoyed by everyone—we all dance, young and old! Perhaps this is because social dancing in Utah has come up through the generations. When the Mormon pioneers were making their trek west, dancing was one of the main diversions of the nightly encampment.

### Checking on Their Desires

Such being the case, Provo high school boys and girls did not astonish school and city recreation planners when they signified through a survey that eighty-five per cent of them wanted dancing in the summer. The survey was undertaken by the executive committee of the local Recreation Council to find out not what some adults *thought* young people wanted but what young people themselves desired. In fall, winter and spring, the boys and girls enjoy weekly matinee or evening dance parties under the auspices of the schools. It had seemed to the committee that the greatest lack in the summer schedule was supervised social dancing, since there was already in operation a summer co-recreational program of games, sports, dramatics, music and nature activities. Nevertheless, the committee double-checked its opinion by referring the matter directly to the boys and girls. The survey was conducted by school officials

through personal contact questions, group contact questions, and individual questionnaires. Each boy and girl of the Junior and Senior High Schools thus had a three-point contact. The questions on which the survey was expected to shed light were:

1. Did the boys and girls continue to dance during the summer months?
2. If so, where did they dance?
3. To what extent did they enjoy dancing compared with other co-recreational activities offered through the community recreation plan?

Results of the survey revealed that public dance halls, rural beer parlors and road houses were the places where these adolescents danced because there were no other places to dance; and that they preferred dancing to any co-recreational activity offered in the community recreation program.

On the basis of this discovered need for a wholesome avenue of expression for adolescent urges, the committee went into action with overwhelmingly successful results!

### Promoting Dances on a Club Basis

First, it was decided to promote the summer dances on a club basis. A "Dance Club Organization Week" was accordingly inaugurated. Articles were run in the town papers informing the parents and the boys and girls that an orchestra and ballroom would be available to interested groups for twelve weeks for a nominal fee of ten cents per person. Certain age groups were invited to meet at designated times and places with local recreation supervisors. It was stated that a minimum number of twenty would be accepted as a nucleus of a club. The clubs were then organized by the boys and girls themselves with the help of recreation supervisors. Each club that was begun



during "Dance Club Organization Week" selected its own name and developed its own artistic motif to be printed on the club's membership cards which were to be used as admittance cards to the club's dances. Each club elected a president, vice-president, secretary and three directors who were responsible for formulating club policies. The officers, for example, decided on the maximum number of members to be admitted to the club; they drew up regulations regarding proper conduct at the dances; they scheduled the dances and planned special entertainments. The elected officers also controlled all funds collected, which, by the way, were used for punch and cookies or party favors for the special evening parties which occurred during the dance season. A maximum number of one hundred was accepted for each club, and any person could join any club he desired providing the club membership was not filled.

Although decisions were made by the young folks themselves, leaders were of course always available for counsel. This combination of freedom and guidance worked out well in every way. For example, in the matter of joining the clubs, the youngsters almost invariably associated themselves with comrades of similar social development. The Junior Clubs as a rule were composed of boys and girls of the same age; this was true of the Senior Clubs, too. During the dance season only a few club members were penalized by their peers for misconduct. It was never necessary to suspend any member from his club because he did not meet the standards set by his associates.

Nine hundred boys and girls were affiliated with the summer dance clubs. Each club sponsored a guest night during the season when each member was privileged to bring one guest for whose conduct he was responsible.

Junior clubs as a rule preferred to meet from 9:00 to 10:30 P. M. An interesting characteristic of their programs was the demand for dance mixers—a demand due partly to the boys' timidity in asking girls for dances and partly to a hearty adolescent fondness for the livelier activities. For approximately three-fourths of the evening they wanted to secure partners through social games and dance mixers, and to learn new ballroom dances. The remainder of the time they would choose partners by themselves. Senior dance club members, on the contrary, preferred to spend more of an evening in exchanging dances, with probably two or three dance mixers interspersed. Some instruction in ballroom etiquette was de-

sired. Occasionally a director would be asked to teach new dance steps, but the demand was not so great as that in the Junior Clubs.

All dance club entertainments were held at Senior High School and Junior High School gymnasiums, which were offered free by the Board of Education. An orchestra from the Recreation Project of the WPA was available for dance music. Salaries of recreation directors for this activity, as for all other recreational community activities, were paid conjointly by the Board of Education, Provo City, and the Works Progress Administration; thus the only cost for each participant was a ten-cent membership fee. So here's how, when and where nine hundred boys and girls of the teen-ages of Provo City with a population of 16,000 people enjoy twelve dancing parties for ten cents—and what fun!

## An Experiment in Church Co-Recreation

By JAMES MCKINLEY

Director of Recreation

Collingwood Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Toledo, Ohio

AT THE BEGINNING of the year a mixed class in the Senior Department of the Sunday School of our church began a study of community resources. Recreation was included in the study and the group made a survey to find out just what co-recreation facilities were available in the neighborhood. The survey showed that the places for wholesome co-recreation were few and far between. Dancing was one activity the young people decided they could promote in a better manner for having a good time. They thought it should be held in the church, and a committee so informed the minister. The minister said that while he was not opposed to dancing he had seen it tried in other churches and could see no advantage in promoting it within the church walls. He discussed it with the committee and then told the members to work it out with the director of recreation. This was the plan finally evolved:

### Finding a Place to Dance

A city park shelter house about a mile from the church was available for dancing at the low price



of one dollar per evening. The Senior Department would sponsor a trial dance there to see what interest there actually was in dancing. The committee, with the aid of the director, worked out the program which was to continue from 8:00 P. M. until 11:00 P. M. in the shelter house. After this the entire group was to go back to the church for refreshments. For music they would have an amplifier with all the latest tunes on records.

It was a shy, strange crowd that gathered the evening of the first dance. Strange, because as the evening advanced it was discovered that over a quarter of the crowd did not know how to dance or was just beginning to learn. The committee's first job was to put those people at ease and in the mood for dancing without making any individuals conspicuous. They all wanted to dance, but were afraid every eye would be upon them if they ventured out on the floor.

### On Early Arrivers

In planning the program, the committee had not supposed the guests would arrive before eight o'clock. But by seven-thirty a dozen was there, with more coming in each minute, and the amplifier was not yet ready for use. So on the spur of the moment a game was improvised. The floor of the shelter house was of white tile with a pattern of dark lines radiating from the center with a design which was perfect for running on. Here was a splendid layout for a game of line tag which could be played without music with everyone joining in. The game accordingly began and was continually enlarged to include later arrivals—who invariably stepped on the lines and were tagged. After this initiation they entered the fun wholeheartedly. At the end of ten minutes the entire group was yelling and playing together with no thought of self-consciousness.

### Then Came the Dance

Promptly at 8:00 P. M. the music began, and during two pieces some of the young people danced while many others sat on the side lines. Next, all were brought together in a big circle and told how to do a grand right and left. Everyone tried it, and then, at a signal, each person took a partner and danced. After a very short time the same procedure was used again to mix up the partners. In the

spirit of the dance good dancers accepted poor dancers and helped them all they could.

A get-acquainted game was then introduced to break the ice still further. It was "Zip-Zap," and how the players did enjoy it! Following this a Paul Jones was tried, the success of which was attested by the fact that it ran for over half an hour before the group was willing to go on to something else. Again came a rest period followed by waltzes. Now the young people were in the mood and eager to try the "Lambeth Walk." Everyone chose a partner, took his place in a double circle, listened to detailed instructions, and did what he had been wanting to do—the latest dance step out. To conclude the evening's dancing the lights in the shelter house were extinguished and by the light that shone in from the street a marvelous moonlight waltz drew everyone to the dance floor.

Back in the church for refreshments and a discussion of the evening's entertainment, the group decided that more such dances should be held.

Dancing inside the church was forgotten. Other things that they could do together were enthusiastically talked over.

### Other Activities Popular

Since that dance the group has held roller skating parties, a sleigh ride, and two skiing and coasting parties. It has presented a religious play, sponsored a young people's carnival, and is playing badminton, shuffleboard, table tennis, and board games. The church is the young people's playground and their play is guided along the lines of Christian education.

This is one such co-recreation experiment that can be tried and expanded. We are trying others. Our fun nights, our roller skating parties and our movies are all planned for mixed groups of younger children from the Junior and Intermediate Departments.

## Class Social Dancing

By ARTHUR J. ROLFE  
Physical Education Instructor  
Emerson School, Gary, Indiana

"CLASS, fall in without changing into your gym clothes today." This order was given to the 8:15 boys' gym class at Emerson School in

January 1937. The boys looked at each other in astonishment and wondered what this strange order of events was to be, for they have always changed into gym clothes for the gym activities. After arranging themselves for roll call, they were told to report to the girls' gymnasium, and informed that once a week for the next eight weeks they were to take social dancing with the girls' class.

This announcement was met with varied results. Some of the boys immediately fell in line, some of them were non-committal, and the rest very much opposed to the idea. The instructor then explained the reason for attempting this new program which had never been tried before in the history of Emerson School.

Some salesmanship was necessary to persuade the doubtful ones to enter into the experiment, and they were told at that time that after spending two class periods in social dancing they would not have to continue and could withdraw from further participation. This, in brief, explains the beginning of social dancing in mixed class groups at the Emerson School.

The girls' physical education director, Miss Reynolds, originated the plan and presented it to the boys' directors for trial. She has long supervised the dancing parties here and could see that if certain social etiquette and dancing itself could be taught through the class medium, a great deal could be added to the social functions. With this idea in mind, the program was launched and, needless to say, the first day we had various reactions. With careful supervision by both instructors and by an appeal to the better dancers in the class to aid the beginners, the first day passed off with fair success, and we felt that the program could be continued.

The following Tuesday nothing was added to the program, but a stronger appeal was made to the students themselves to enter into the idea wholeheartedly. After the second week a poll was taken among the boys to see what their reaction was. The result was surprising and gratifying.

Our classes range in number from fifty to one hundred fifty, and, for example, in one class of one hundred forty-two boys, only two asked not to continue participating in the program. We continued the program as planned without attempting

**"Co-recreation is one of the most important forms of recreation for the church. Churches need co-recreational activities because people who meet together want to play together. Boys and girls playing together in the church form friendships that are lasting. Co-recreation is increasingly coming to be recognized as an important aid to religion. Keep it thus, and under good leadership co-recreation will help to work wonders for any church."**

to teach a great deal of social etiquette, merely selling the idea to the students. At the end of the eight weeks period the instructors unanimously felt that it was a program well worth while, and Miss Reynolds reported a marked improvement in the other social affairs of the school.

This year we began the program again with a more definite objective. The students had accepted the idea; the majority of them liked it and were eager for the eight weeks period to begin. We decided to attempt each week to improve some social defects. Of these, gum chewing was the most glaring, and so we gave the classes little talks upon the unsuitability of gum chewing in public places. From then on we directed attention to other points of desirable social behavior; boys were encouraged to thank their partners for dances and to escort them to seats instead of leaving them in the middle of the floor; girls were shown that it is graceful and proper to accept an escort's arm. We tried to avoid having the boys congregate in one corner and the girls in another. In general, we made an effort to eliminate the prevalent impoliteness and rudeness which we believed were due mostly to ignorance.

Then came propaganda to have the boys more conscious of their personal appearance. Following the first Tuesday when the common edict was put before them, a request was made for all boys to wear ties. Following that they were asked to shine their shoes, and then we asked that some sort of a jacket be worn which would resemble a coat. The boys responded almost a hundred per cent, and it was noteworthy to see the change in their appearance on the days of social dancing.

The question of music used is always important. The first year we danced to piano music, but the graduating class of 1937 presented to the school an electrical phonograph on which we now depend entirely.

In order to break down the stiffness which sometimes appears at the beginning of these classes, we use two or three different methods of bringing the couples together. For the first dance we generally line them up, boys and girls in separate lines, upper classmen in front. Then we have them march and meet at one end of the

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# A Symposium on Social Dancing

**High School Age Dances on Club Basis.** Many carefully thought-out features characterize dance programs for high school age boys and girls sponsored by metropolitan agencies in Tacoma, Washington. Among the interesting points are (1) the club basis on which dances are run; (2) the tests in dancing and etiquette which are prerequisite to club membership; and (3) the co-operative council through which the direction of the club is shared with P.T.A. and other civic organizations.

The Sponsors' Club — which consists of high school students who attend the dances—elects its own officers, furnishes host committees and secures chaperones. When a dance is held the club secretary sits at the entrance of the building; from each guest he receives ten cents, the weekly membership dues, and a signed membership card. An adult attendant who is also at the door registers the name, age, address and school of each guest. No person having liquor or the smell of it on his breath is admitted. There are no pass out checks, and once out an individual stays out; nor is rowdyism tolerated. A seven piece orchestra, public address system, two dance instructors and five attendants furnished through the WPA department of recreation help to make the affairs enjoyable for an average of five hundred dancers each Friday night. The first half hour is devoted to beginners' instruction and the rest of the time to social dancing.

To direct the administration of the dances and to relate the club to various civic organizations a Cooperative Council has been organized with the following rules:

## Rules for a Cooperative Council

The Council shall be composed of one representative from each of the following: (1) Public Schools; (2) Parent-Teacher Association; (3) Metropolitan Park District, (4) WPA; (5) "Hi" Social Dance Club. The Council shall deal with all problems relating to the promotion and administration of the community Hi Social Dance Club or Clubs. The Public School representative on the council shall relate the program to school activities and requirements, the P.T.A. representative shall coordinate the program with home activities and furnish chaperones, and the Metropolitan Park

District representative shall relate the club members' desires and organization to the Council.

Because the school function is the developing of skills, all students between the ages of fifteen and twenty-one desiring membership in the club must first pass a test in dancing ability and etiquette given by the school teacher in dancing. After passing such a test, a membership card giving all necessary information shall be filed with the Park Director of Recreation. On payment of dues to the club treasurer at each dance session, the membership card will be given to the student, who will then surrender it to the club secretary stationed at the entrance to the dance hall.

Membership will be accepted from those young people between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one years of age not attending school, providing they pass the same test at either the school center or park recreation dancing instruction classes.

For violation of rules, cancellation of membership, either temporary or permanent, will be invoked by the Cooperative Council.

High School Dance Club Officers shall consist of a president, secretary, patrol of six, vice-president, and treasurer, all elected for a three months' period during the first week of January, April and October. These officers shall have active charge of the dance floor and program of activities.

The high school age dancing clubs are directly sponsored by the Playground and Recreation Department of the Metropolitan Park District with the cooperation of the WPA Department of Recreation. From *Alfred R. Hodges*, Director of Recreation, Metropolitan Park District.

**Recorded Music for High School Dances.** In Albion, Michigan, dances are held for high school students on Friday or Saturday night each week unless some other activity takes the gymnasium. Unlike Albion's Junior and Senior proms, these recreation dances, as they are known to the students, have recorded music. An excellent amplifying system has been developed which brings the latest records as loudly or as softly as desired to the three hundred or four hundred boys and girls. The students are enthusiastic and many have said that they like the informality of the recreation dances better than the more formal school dances. The dances are held from eight to eleven and the

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# Clubs Further Co-Recreational Objectives

*The young people of today will be the adults of tomorrow. In their hands we, their elders, will eventually leave the conduct of all departments of life. Gradually boys and girls must be taught to handle their own affairs wisely. It devolves upon all leaders of young people to share in inducting them into responsible adulthood. Organized clubs are growing in favor as a means to this end. In the accounts presented here, some of the leaders who are employing this approach to youth education tell of their methods.*

## A "Drop In" Room

By MINNA B. REICHELT  
Executive Secretary and Supervisor  
Philadelphia Bureau of Recreation

YOUNG PEOPLE have two very strong social needs—one is for the large gathering that supplies glitter and romance; the other is for a pleasant place where they may meet informally by twos, threes and fours whenever the spirit moves them. In a neighborhood such as that of the East Germantown Recreation Center, Philadelphia, where families are poor and home conditions unpleasant, the first need used to be most widely satisfied by the cheap dance halls. To fill the second need—the urge to foregather informally—street corners served in place of homes. And while looking for glamour, pleasure and companionship, boys and girls were meeting in surroundings that were far from uplifting.

Thinking about these neighborhood young people, who were mostly the out-of-school group, the directors of East Germantown Center agreed that a co-recreational social club might solve their problem. The club could hold parties and dances to meet the desire for large-scale social functions. And—of equal importance—an attractive club room could be established which would be an admissible substitute for the non-existent home background—a communal "drop in" room, available for everyday informal use and enjoyment.

In initiating an enterprise of this sort it is easy for directors to spoil young people's fun by anticipating their wants, by providing equipment without allowing them to work for it, and in general, by stealing the show. East Germantown center directors were successful in avoiding this mis-

take. During the summer months the idea of the club was put forward in such a way that the young people took it up with enthusiasm. In the early fall a series of four dances, held during a two weeks period, served as an attraction to get the group together. The directors provided an amplifying set and the latest records. Between three and four hundred boys and girls attended the dances, at the last of which an election of officers (publicized in advance) was held for the new co-recreation club.

Two hundred and forty young people were sufficiently interested to take part in this election. They chose a very popular boy as president and elected other officers and standing committees. They also voted to pay ten cents apiece per week as dues to furnish and decorate a co-recreation social room, buy new dance records and a spectrum for the dance lights.

And how those boys and girls have worked, with the directors, to equip a cheerful, livable club room! Gradually, the room acquired rugs, piano, radio, table lamps, bridge lamps, bookcase, pictures, chairs, tables, plants and monks' cloth draperies. Much of the equipment was donated or purchased from a second hand dealer. Members of the group collected magazines, books, cards, chess sets, sheet music and plants. The painting, repairing and decorating of the equipment was done by the directors and the group. The entire cost of furnishing the room was thirty-five dollars.

The recreation room comfortably accommodates thirty persons and is open daily from 2:30 P. M. to 10:30 P. M. It is a meeting place where boys and girls, parents and outsiders may read, play the piano, sing, hear radio broadcasts, play cards, chess, checkers, meet "dates," sew, knit, relax and rest.



The standing committees elected by the club have measured up capably in the matter of taking responsibility for activities. The social committee arranges tournaments such as bridge, chess, camelot and ping-pong; this committee also takes care of the music program for the dances. The arrangements committee selects boys and girls to sing, dance, whistle or imitate over the microphone with the records. The host and hostess committee consists of ten boys and ten girls assigned to dance with "wall flowers" of the opposite sex during the dances.

With the opening of the co-recreation room, a greater community spirit has developed. The boys and girls use the room to good advantage and conduct themselves properly. They make every effort to keep the room in order and supplied with the latest reading material. The room has increased the attendance at the center and has brought many people from different parts of the city and from other cities to see the club and how it functions. The club has decreased corner lounging and, incidentally, added much interest and greater participation in other established classes at the center.

The success achieved at the East Germantown Recreation Center has created an interest and desire throughout the remaining centers under the jurisdiction of the Philadelphia Bureau of Recreation to establish co-recreation rooms. Several have already been opened with similar success and others are under way.

**"It is the consensus of opinion among leaders in the Philadelphia recreation centers that co-recreational programs have resulted in increased interest in the centers and their activities, instilled a spirit of comradeship and harmony, and dissolved unruly cliques and gangs, thereby eliminating many disciplinary problems."**

big city where people who are established with friends and position are too busy with their own affairs, too hurried, and too self-centered to make an effort to help those less favored socially.

The Recreation Commission of Cincinnati had made an effort, through various classes and clubs, to give our citizens an opportunity to meet socially, but with limited success until the Meet-a-body Club was organized in 1929. The club was formed at the request of three newspapers whose "advice" columnists had received so many letters from men and women asking for help in getting acquainted that the editors felt this need had to be met. From the beginning we had the help of these papers, and it was interesting to listen to the reporters and editors of the newspapers discussing the problem of meeting friends in a big city. Most of them hadn't realized that the need existed. Most of them couldn't see why adult men and women couldn't make friends and acquaintances. I would say to them: "How should a stranger in a city go about making friends?" The inevitable answer was: "Join a church group." My answer to this would be: "How many of your present friends have you met through church affiliations? I, for example, have been attending the same church practically every Sunday for the last five years, and in this time have never been introduced to a single person, and no one has even tried to speak to me."

From my conversations with Meet-a-body Club applicants I know this condition exists everywhere in certain large city churches. Parishioners attend the services and rush away immediately afterwards; when they come to dinners, suppers, or other events in the church, each group has its own circle of acquaintances, and unless the clergyman or some member of the congregation makes a determined effort to help strangers, the occasion is more of an ordeal than a pleasure for the newcomer, especially if he is a middle-aged man or woman.

The editors and columnists of the newspapers advised lonesome persons to join our club, and N. Robert Christy, a prominent business man, of Scotch ancestry, by the way, suggested the name "Meet-a-body." The newspapers helped, too, in trying to convince the public that the club was not a matrimonial agency.

## A "Body Meets-a-Body" in Cincinnati

By MABEL MADDEN

Public Recreation Commission  
Cincinnati, Ohio

"ONLY THE LONELY heart can know my sadness," says Tchaikowsky in one of his most poignant songs. True it is that loneliness is one of the most tragic experiences which by its very nature reaches those gentle, quiet, unassuming souls who are generally helpless in trying to make social contacts. Someone has said there is no loneliness quite so terrible as that of a

### It Started Ten Years Ago

The first "Meet-a-body" social party was held on Hallowe'en, ten years ago. We made provision for refreshments for eighty-five people, wondering what to do with the "left-overs." Exactly one hundred and fifteen persons, business men and women, housewives, factory and department store workers, bookkeepers, stenographers, and several retired business men attended. We listened to many of their stories: "I have been transferred to Cincinnati from Chicago and our officials frown on office friendships, so my wife and I have no means of meeting others"; or, "I'm a telephone operator. I sit in my little booth all day long and never have a word with anyone excepting on business"; or, "I am so shy, I just don't seem to be able to make friends."

The most important problem was to find something interesting for such a diversified group. We formed two clubs, one for those under thirty-five years of age, the other for those over thirty. The man or woman from thirty to thirty-five years old had the privilege of choosing the older or younger group. A social party to which everyone was invited was held once each week, and in addition interest groups or hobby groups were organized. The Meet-a-body Hiking Club was one of the first interest groups formed and has survived for ten years. Every Sunday the club meets for a hike of some kind. The Cincinnati Choristers, a group which has sung with the Cincinnati Symphony Christmas Concert and is the successor to the Meet-a-body Choral Club, has met once a week for the past nine years under the direction of one of Cincinnati's outstanding musicians for two hours of singing, with a social dance following the rehearsal. Concerts have been given every year. The Bridge Club, Dancing Club, Supper Club, and Old-Fashioned Dancing Club are interest groups of the larger social organization.

### Making the Wheels Go Round

Membership in the club is open to everyone of good character. No one is admitted without an interview with the director of the club, who, through the courtesy of the Y.W.C.A., is given an office at the Y one afternoon and one evening each week for the interviews. Each applicant must file a membership request giving information concerning employ-

ment, length of residence, references and special interests. At the first interview the director decides whether the applicant should be accepted for membership and to which special interest group he should be assigned. The applicant is then invited to the party held every Friday night.

Officers of the club are elected annually, and they, with the Board of Directors, decide all matters of policy, arrange schedules and appoint chairmen of events. We have tried to make the club self-governing in every respect. The Recreation Commission provides the director, who assists the officers and interviews applicants. All other questions are referred to the club for decision.

In dealing with men and women who find it difficult to make and keep friends it is first necessary to instill in them a real desire to have friends, and, what is more important, to be friends. We are constantly stressing the idea that friendship is a mutual responsibility, a give and take proposition; that no one can remain perpetually on the receiving line, and that the person who waits for others to make all the overtures of friendship will soon find himself alone and lonely in spite of anything the club can do.

We still have the problem of attracting men to the club, our present ratio being approximately six women members to every man. This problem, in all probability, will always be with us, since it is so much easier for men to make friends, especially friends of the opposite sex. As long as social custom requires the man to be the one to have the privilege of asking for engagements and making all advances, there will always be more women than men who want to add to their list of acquaintances and friends.

Dues are twenty-five cents a month, and in addition each member pays his share of the expenses of each party or activity. There is no element of charity and the club members are most careful to impress the public with the fact that the club is not designed only for people of low incomes. Some of the activities are comparatively expensive, and the semi-formal New Year's Eve celebration, which included a buffet supper at midnight at a downtown hotel, cost the members the same as was paid by revellers in other ballrooms in the hotel. Since the membership includes men and women of

A number of experiments in the type of club described by Miss Madden have been tried in various cities, but more often than not such clubs have failed to realize the hopes of their founders. Cincinnati seems to have discovered the key to success, which we suspect is leadership!

varying economic levels we have tried to arrange activities which will fit various purses. If one party is too expensive, the members who cannot afford it simply miss this event. At the Friday night social, however, where we play games, dance, enjoy movies, or have something else arranged by a committee of the club, the expense is never more than twenty-five cents. Most often it is ten or fifteen, and whenever we build up a sizable sum in the treasury we have free parties.

We have been most fortunate in finding a director in Miss Rhea Braun whose sympathetic understanding and tact has weathered many a storm of clashing personalities, misunderstandings and petty jealousies. Miss Braun has been the director for the past three years, and in her the club members have found a friend whom they can telephone for advice, who is willing to attend a movie with them, or visit them even when she is supposed to be off duty.

#### What They Do

The director has tried to make the program of the club as diversified as possible. Within the past two years we have conducted three all-day boat rides. Every spring and fall the club members take a train trip to High Bridge, Kentucky. The railway company provides a private coach, and those who care to take the boat from Natural Bridge to the Dix Dam. Recently the Cincinnati Street Railway Company fitted up one of the old trolley cars for an old-fashioned trolley trip for the club. Some members came dressed in "Gay Nineties" costumes, the old-fashioned ice cream freezer was attached to the rear of the car, and at the end of the line at a suburban park the car stopped for an hour while everyone was served refreshments. The ride lasted four hours and the hour's intermission gave everyone a five hour party at a cost of thirty-five cents.

Meet-a-body Club members have learned more about nature than most people in our city through their participation in the nature hikes, bird walks, and tree study groups held by the Park Board. They meet at a central location, join the Park Board instructor and her group for the hike, and then have their own social gathering afterwards. Three hay rides given this year attracted large groups of members. WLW and other radio stations have invited the club members to make a tour of the studios and broadcasting plants, to watch rehearsals of important programs and to be in the audience at broadcasts featuring important

radio personalities. Trips to local factories and plants have been arranged and visits made to the Museum of Natural History, Grant's birthplace, Harrison's tomb, the Observatory, the Conservatory, Trailside Museum, Art Museum, and twenty parks. Next month we are planning a Sunday trip to the Ohio Caverns, sixty-five miles from Cincinnati. A special bus will leave at 8 A. M. and will return to Cincinnati at 10 P. M.

Small groups often make their own arrangements to meet during the week at theaters, concerts, lectures and other gatherings. Quite often the director will announce: "Some of us are having dinner on Wednesday at 6 P. M. at the Tavern. Anyone who wants to come is welcome." Sometimes five or six will be present, but generally fourteen or sixteen will come, have their dinner and then break up into small groups, to go to a movie, to "window-shop," or to go to the home of one of the members for a game of bridge. Every effort is made to encourage these informal meetings, to bring three or four people together so they may feel they are meeting as friends and not as members of a club. Frequently fine friendships have developed, and after members have made a number of friends and acquaintances they no longer attend the club. This is what we are striving for, to make it unnecessary for them to rely on us for entertainment, recreation and friendships. We try to give the members a knowledge of all the facilities, education, recreational and cultural in the city, so they need not depend on us to tell them what to do, but instead will use their own initiative in participating in the activities they prefer with friends and acquaintances whom they have made through their contacts at the Meet-a-body Club.

### A Sure Cure for Sunday Afternoon Blues!

By MARY FLO SIEGEL  
Assistant Director  
Recreation Department  
Evansville, Indiana

**D** ID YOU EVER want something to do on Sunday afternoon without knowing what you wanted? After you had read the newspapers did you ever want a substitute for that forced retreat to the Sunday afternoon nap? Or have



you ever really felt alive on Sunday afternoon? Can you look back over a year of Sunday afternoons that were really crammed with happy times? New faces? And new scenes?

Those who have walked with the Evansville Hiking Club, joined in the singing and laughter around the campfires, have memories of many profitably spent Sunday afternoons and delightful week-ends during the last four years.

In April, 1935, an outing club for men and women was organized by the city recreation department as the Evansville Municipal Hiking Club. The purpose of the club is to promote hiking, camping, swimming, boating, tours to state parks, and to further interest in out-of-door recreation for adults.

Since the first hike, when two women and one man braved the rain to walk three miles and cook a picnic supper over a smoky fire built on the wet ground, the club has evidenced an unquenchable "will-to-hike." Neither rain, sleet, snow nor hail dampens the hikers' ardor much. They have tramped over icy fields when it's been seven below zero. They've crawled through unexplored caves when it's been thundering and lightning outside. They've played games in old empty barns out in the country to keep dry during sudden April showers. Since the day the club was organized there hasn't been a single Sunday during its hiking season (autumn, winter and spring) without a trip! An average of fifty persons attends each hike.

#### Types of Hikes and Hikers

The Evansville club features three types of hikes. The local or afternoon hike is planned for inexperienced hikers and is inexpensive. The typical day trip takes in some interesting spot perhaps sixty or seventy miles from the city. The week-end house party at a state park or some scenic spot within the radius of two hundred miles is planned for those who can get away Saturday afternoons and Sundays. Longer trips are arranged for those who can be away for two days. Each hike is planned so that there is a definite meeting place and some social activity such as outdoor cooking, picnic supper, campfire singing,

"To be genuinely successful, a hiking club should have hiking as its main objective, but the organizer should also keep in mind the need for social activities. A hiking club should be co-recreational and made up of adults, with no red tape involved in membership. It should be kept inexpensive and friendly. Hike schedules should be carefully planned, with definite leaders in charge and with the hikes held at a time when the majority of members are not at work. The objectives of hikes should be out of the city in the country, woods, or along a lake or river. Above all, a hike should be fun!"

games or folk dancing at the end of every hike. It has been the custom for each hiker to carry enough food for one person plus utensils for cooking. The average hiker carries also a thermos bottle filled with coffee, hot chocolate, milk or water. Some hikers have found that a knapsack is a convenient way to take all necessary equipment.

Comfortable shoes and clothing suitable to the season are worn on the hikes. Experienced women hikers wear boots and riding breeches, snow suits, slacks or jodhpurs which are not too tight at the knee. Men wear walking shoes and riding or hunting clothes. Hikers find leather or suede jackets better for going through brush than wool sweaters.

The 225 members of the club are men and women over sixteen years of age. Children may go on hikes if their parents are hikers. College professors, salesgirls, industrial workers, and clerks have a jolly time together. One of the most enthusiastic hikers in the group is a postman who rarely misses a hike; he says the sociability of the walk makes it different from pounding the pavement on week-days! The hikers are friendly and welcome new members and guests, and many newcomers in the city have found friends through the group. The hikers are good sports. Cooperation with property owners and with other members of the club for the good of everyone concerned is manifested in the closing of gates, walking around the edge of planted fields, and climbing fences at stiles. The men help the girls over streams and fences.

#### They "Cover the Waterfront!"

The hikers have visited all the state parks within a week-end distance of the city; walked for eight hours through Kentucky's Mammoth Cave; hiked through nearly every Indiana county; gone on moonlight boat rides, and sponsored roller-skating parties. One of the most exciting trips the club ever took was in Harrison County, when members spent two hours walking through an uncharted cave. To get to the entrance they walked down a steep incline and then, tying ropes around their waists, swung over onto a narrow ledge. In the cave they had lanterns as their only illumina-



tion. Crawling around rocks and tree roots, they looked through holes in the floor—and couldn't see the bottom.

#### Indoor Social Affairs

In addition to outdoor activities, the club holds indoor social affairs. The annual banquet is held in November each year when officers for the coming year are announced. At last year's banquet the program was built about the international theme of "Hiking Over the World," with Youth Hostel songs and speeches on hiking and biking in foreign countries. Other banquets have had the Western Cowboy and Mexican ideas with decorations and entertainment carrying out the themes. The Birthday Party or Founders' Day is celebrated in April each year, usually at one of the week-end house parties at state parks. One year it was celebrated with a Kid Party when each member came dressed as a child and carrying an excuse to be out later than eight o'clock. A birthday cake with candles is always featured. Games, stunts and dramatic skits enliven the program.

#### Organization Simple

The organization of the Evansville Hiking Club is simple. There is no constitution, only a few rules and customs. The club observes the rules of the department of conservation of the state in which it hikes—Indiana, Kentucky or Illinois. Dues of seventy-five cents per year, payable twenty-five cents per season, cover expenses of mailing notifications and bulletins, and pay for decorations and programs for the banquets. The club has not endeavored to build up a treasury as it aims only to pay its own way. Each hiker pays his own expenses while on a hike or trip. To save embarrassing moments for the carless members, the officers of the club have arranged that when a member rides in some other member's car he shall pay one half cent per mile for the total distance traveled. A mimeographed bulletin stating the dates and hours of scheduled events, meeting places, expenses involved, and the names of the leaders is sent to each club member three times a year.

Officers of the club are elected by written ballot of the club members. Ballots (printed on postcards) are

enclosed with the autumn bulletins to be returned to the Recreation Department office by a certain date. The only office of the club that is non-elective is that of secretary-treasurer, as the assistant recreation director fills this post, thus keeping the club closely affiliated with the city Recreation Department. The officers have charge of organizing the hikes and planning all details. The general members of the club have opportunities to serve as hike leaders and committee members and to turn their special talents to account in services such as leading games, or making favors for parties.

## Take the Zephyr Club, for Example

By HENRY D. SCHUBERT  
Superintendent of Recreation  
Dearborn, Michigan

**S**PEAKING OF SUCCESSFUL wide-awake young people's clubs, take the Zephyr Club of Dearborn, Michigan, for example! The group, organized in 1938 from the remnants of the Youth Incorporated movement, numbers approximately one hundred young men and women between the ages of eighteen and thirty. The primary objective of the club is to promote a varied, wholesome leisure time program of physical, educational, and social activities. The organization supports itself through the payment of monthly dues and the sponsorship of special activities which attract public support. The club is sponsored by the Recreation Department and is under the supervision of an executive committee composed of interested adults. The officers of the organization compose a board of control which

meets once a month to discuss policy and program plans. Meetings are in the club house, rented from the Y.W.C.A. for the last four days of each week. The rent fee entitles the club to the services of a chaperon who is present continually. Two Thursdays of the month are devoted to business meetings. Friday eve-

"Our community has realized how vital—mentally, morally, socially, and from a civic standpoint—a well-rounded co-recreational program is, and how important it is that this program be made available to everyone regardless of age, social position or financial status. The Department of Recreation is happy to say that the co-recreational activities instituted in Dearborn are among the most popular of the entire program. The only difficulty encountered is that of securing capable and interested leaders."

nings are reserved for special parties, and Sunday the club house is kept open all day. Sunday activities, beginning in the morning, are: breakfast, horseback riding, hiking, skating, pot luck suppers. Two evenings are devoted to lectures delivered by imported speakers. Lectures have been delivered on the subjects of narcotics, Federal Bureau of Investigation, vocations, traffic rules, delinquency, sports, dramatics, and the Youth Hostel Movement.

Some of the other features of the Zephyr Club program include social and old time dancing, bicycle riding, hay rides, all kinds of suppers and breakfasts, box socials, holiday parties, basketball and softball teams, panel discussions, millionaire parties, roasts, scavenger and treasure hunts, picnics, music, dramatics and formal parties. The members are enthusiastic, aggressive and keenly alert to develop and make their club a permanent, growing organization.

The Dearborn Zephyr Club is especially designed to take care of that group of young people who, upon graduation from high school, find themselves without the social participation possibilities which they enjoyed in school. The club serves as a means of adjustment to community social practices. Boys and girls are given opportunities to observe, to participate in, and to direct community activities; this training helps them to become mature social individuals. Every member of the club cultivates a sympathetic, friendly attitude to his fellow members. The personnel of the club consists of laborers, stenographers, newspaper reporters, musicians, an artist, college students, store clerks, dentists, public officials, and other professional people.

On January 29th, the club celebrated in gala style its first birthday as the Dearborn Zephyr Club with the parents and friends of the members as guests. Mayor John L. Carey delivered the principal address.

## A High School Recreation Club

By JACK JAMES  
Parkersburg, West Virginia

A HIGH SPOT in the school week for many a high school student in Parkersburg, West Virginia, is the three-quarter hour period when the Recreation Club meets for games in the gym. This club is one of the most interesting and

successful co-recreational activities sponsored by the city Board of Recreation. Although adult leadership is provided for the club by the Board, boys and girls are encouraged to take part in directing their own games. This sort of training, the Board feels, not only builds mental and physical alertness but demonstrates how to use leisure time to advantage and strengthens in students the qualities of fellowship and sportsmanship that come from association in play.

The club, which meets once a week for twelve weeks during each semester, has been in progress for two years and has had an enrollment of 240 students. The use of the gym has been provided and the club period is from 12:45 to 1:30 P. M. The club is open to both boys and girls of the Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes, but it has been limited so as not to number over sixty-five members. The average attendance for a sixty-five member class is about sixty.

The program for a twelve week period consists of three different types of games: active, quiet, and rhythmic.

In the active type of games, the high and low organized games are divided and given on separate days. The quiet games include brain teasers, pencil and paper games, mixers, and mental games. The rhythmic games consist of folk dances, children's singing games, and games with songs. Thus, a four type standard is used in planning the program for twelve weeks. The following is a sample program covering four weeks:

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>First Week. Low</i>          | 4. Who Am I?                |
| <i>Organized Games</i>          | 5. Simon Says               |
| 1. Over and Under Relay         | <i>Third Week.</i>          |
| 2. Squirrel in the Tree         | <i>High Organized Games</i> |
| 3. Dizzy Izzy Relay             | 1. Volleyball               |
| 4. Club Snatch                  | 2. Corner Ball              |
| 5. Crows and Cranes             | 3. Indoor Softball Game     |
| <i>Second Week. Quiet Games</i> | (alternate)                 |
| 1. Barter                       | <i>Fourth Week.</i>         |
| 2. True and False               | <i>Rhythmic Games</i>       |
| Questions                       | 1. Hickory Dickory Dock     |
| 3. Twenty Questions             | 2. Virginia Reel            |

We in the Parkersburg recreation department are well pleased with the high school Recreation Club. The eagerness with which the boys and girls take part in the activity and the repeated requests for the opportunity to rejoin the club have proved its popularity.

To any other recreation department that is considering such a project it is needless to point out that generous cooperation of school authorities is essential not only in arranging for gymnasium

space and time, but in promoting the program as a whole effectively. Where such cooperation exists, the possibilities of this type of service are great. The high school club need not necessarily be a noon hour club, of course. Sometimes an after school or evening club suits a particular group better.

## Schenectady's Otyokwa Club

By MARGARET C. HARRISON

Club Secretary

Young Women's Christian Association  
Schenectady, New York

THE OTYOKWA CLUB, sponsored by the Young Women's Christian Association and the Young Men's Christian Association of Schenectady, New York, was organized in 1930 to meet the recreational and social needs of local young women and of young men, chiefly college men, who come to the city each year from all over the country to begin their careers as engineers or accountants in the General Electric plant. The idea was first presented to a group of eight women and eight men, and since that time the idea and its possibilities have grown until one needs merely talk with a member to realize the enthusiasm stirred up by the fellowship and activities of the club.

The present constitution establishes the executive functions in a committee made up of the president, three vice-presidents (promoting membership, special interests and program respectively), a secretary, treasurer, and the club secretaries of the Y.W.C.A. and the Y.M.C.A. When the president is a man, the second vice-president and the secretary are also men, and the other officers women; the following year the arrangement is reversed. This committee, in monthly meetings, evaluates and coordinates the program of the club and otherwise keeps the machinery in working condition. A monthly bulletin keeps the membership informed not only of the club program but of interesting bits of news concerning members of the club and of special musical, dramatic

or art programs scheduled for the capitol district—this is, Albany, Troy, and Schenectady.

### When They "Step Out"

In its nine years of existence a number of traditions have of course been established, and certain things must be done each year, such as climbing Mount Marcy, holding an amateur night, an anniversary dinner, a May Day breakfast, and a gymkhana. In a general way the schedule consists of a "regular meeting" once a month, at which the program is more or less cultural; a social meeting once a month, which may be a dance, a dinner, or some other sort of party; special occasion dances; Saturday afternoon outings (hiking, skiing, skating, tobogganing, swimming); and occasional week-end mountain trips.

The regular meetings this past season have been devoted to a talk on the early history of the local region, a talk and colored movies of the National Parks, a peace play, a talk and movies on Labrador by the son of Sir Wilfred Grenfell, a talk on honey and the honey bee, a talk on city government by the City Manager, and a book talk by a librarian. (During the summer months the regular meetings take the form of outings, generally including a swim and a meal.) After each program there is a social hour and refreshments are served.

The social meetings have included a scavenger hunt, a Christmas dinner dance (formal), a skating party followed by a waffle supper, a Valentine party, an amateur night when practically every member had a part, and a gymkhana (games in the gymnasium and a swim in the pool). The special dances have been the Halloween dance in appropriate costumes, a Thanksgiving semi-formal, a winter dance, also semi-formal, and a St. Patrick's dance which was informal.

For the Saturday afternoon outings swimming

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# Introducing Boys and Girls to Co-Recreation

By ELEANOR W. CHAMBERLIN

Scarsdale High School  
Scarsdale, New York

CO-RECREATION has taken its place today as an important means to social adjustment because it

helps to lay a foundation for social poise, friendship and companionship among boys and girls. The problem which now faces many teachers is how a program of co-recreation may be presented so that boys and girls will like it and want to enlarge upon it.

There are four important aspects to the problem: first, who shall have the responsibility of introducing and conducting co-recreational activities; second, to what extent should these activities be included in the physical education program; third, what activities are best adapted to co-recreation; and fourth, how shall they be introduced?

The responsibility for introducing this phase of the program rests with members of the physical education department—both men and women. It is not always an easy subject to present, and one of the essentials is that it be done by people who are interested in it themselves and who have contacts with boys and girls. For best results members of both departments should share responsibility jointly.

Co-recreation is conducted for recreational purposes—to bring about a feeling of good fellowship, a good healthy interest in the activities of the opposite sex, and a knowledge of the pleasure derived from playing with mixed groups. The aim is not to teach skills; therefore the extent to which these activities should be included in the program is comparatively small. It is sufficient for them to occur every four, six or eight weeks during regular class time, and more frequently during noon hour periods and after school, depending on the facilities available. A mixed group may be brought together naturally at the end of a sport season or tournament. For example, after boys and girls have had separate badminton and ping-pong tournaments, mixed doubles will easily follow.

What activities are most adaptable to co-recreation? This is not the place to list

activities in detail; suffice it to say that any activity not involving body contact and not requiring advanced skill

for enjoyment may justifiably be included in the program. These activities will include individual and team games and dancing. The list becomes endless depending upon equipment, time, space and interest.

As to the final question of how co-recreation shall be introduced, the introduction should be gradual, but the approach may vary. If possible, it should come through some desire shown by the students themselves. When a group of boys and girls show interest in playing together, capitalize upon that interest by arranging a time when they may do it. When they want activities that are not well adapted to mixed groups, such as basketball, try to redirect their interests to a sport better suited to both. Schools that have club periods may use those to advantage for introducing co-recreation, and the opportunity for noontime activity is great. Social dancing fits in readily at times such as these.

## Class Organization

Class organization on a co-recreational basis may take three forms: (1) two entire classes may be combined; (2) students may elect to play; and (3) only those who have attained a required amount of skill may enter. Perhaps each form has its rightful place, since children who have not learned the fundamental skills may not enjoy mixed classes, and those who definitely do not want to play in mixed groups will be a detriment. When only parts of the classes are combined some form of activity must be provided for the remaining group.

No discussion of co-recreation would be complete without a presentation of the subject from the school's point of view. And so we are publishing the talk given by Miss Chamberlin at the meeting of the Women's Athletic Section, Eastern District, American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, held in New York City last May.

Because our ultimate aim is co-recreation for all, combining entire classes is of more vital importance. Where there are leaders' groups within the school, let these be the entering wedge. As a concrete example, we have the following case of a mixed volleyball game at the

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## The Evolution of Flint's Co-Ed Night

By MARIE WATTERS  
Y.W.C.A.  
Flint, Michigan

**T**HIS DEPRESSION hit Flint and other industrial cities like it a little harder, perhaps, than many communities, so that the problem of recreation for the unemployed and their families has been a real one from the first of those difficult years. The Young Women's Christian Association, as well as other social agencies, soon saw that the young people who had been in their clubs, as well as many with whom they had no contact, had need for a new type of inexpensive recreation—something different from that which the Y.W.C.A. had been offering.

As the Y.W.C.A. had a good sized building to use, a little money in the budget for experimentation, and at that time a fairly adequate sized staff for supervision, it was thought desirable to make some study of the needs and the resources of the community for meeting them. As a result, a program for boys and girls out of school was initiated on a small scale in the fall of 1930. By 1939 the "Co-ed night" had developed into one of the most interesting and perhaps most needed parts

of the Association's program.

For the first few weeks there were weekly dances in the gymnasium. Then classes along the line of the then popular "Charm School" were started for the girls who wanted to come before time for the dance. The next year the program was expanded, with more classes and other recreational features besides dancing, and boys were included in the entire evening's activities.

### Solving Problems

More and more young people continued to be attracted. Some came out of curiosity, some with genuine interest, others who wanted a "hang-out" but had little regard for organized programs. The influx of the latter presented an additional problem, as the budget and staff had been reduced and there was not enough money to employ the leaders needed. Volunteers gave of their time, there was some F.E.R.A. assistance, and a few specialized instructors were paid. To try to take care of the problem of those who seemed to have no

interest except to hang around the halls and create disturbance, the plan was tried of making class attendance compulsory in order to attend the dance. That plan was followed until this year.

It took a great deal of patience and understanding during those first years of working on individual problems to discover ways of gradually bringing the most asocial into the group. It took enthusiasm and a faith in youth to convince those responsible for the upkeep of the building that it was worth the toll, for part of the time one did not know what to expect "the morning after the night before." Undoubtedly the furniture in the Flint Y.W.C.A. is far more worn than it otherwise would have been, the floors are marred and the pianos scratched, but it is not true that in the program the seventeen to twenty-five year old youth are the forgotten group.

The program year of 1938-39 seems to many who have watched its development through the period of years to be superior in many ways. A number of reasons for this are evident. There has been a natural process of stabilization. A nucleus of leaders among the participants has been a part of it long enough so that they help assimilate newcomers. There has been a constant training of leadership by staff members who were skilled in working with groups. It is no longer just a co-ed "night"; it is a co-ed "club."

A Council, elected by the group, determines the policies and program. For instance, it was their decision that classes need no longer be compulsory. The Council meets for a few minutes each week to discuss immediate problems and once a month spends a longer time on future plans. Besides making plans for the group, these young men and women of the Council are alert all evening to see that things are running smoothly. One or two of them stay at the registration desk most of the time. Here they help welcome newcomers and watch out for those who seem most timid or perhaps do not have even the small fee required. One of the girls of the Council was overheard talking with a shy girl who had been coming to the group for two or three weeks but staying on the fringes. She discovered that the girl was so eager to come that she had walked from an outlying part of the city, a distance of over four miles, and expected to do the same at the end of the evening. The Council member and her escort took the girl home. The time and emphasis given to the development of a Council and training them for leadership responsibility have

begun to show and undoubtedly add to this year's success.

Another problem has been pretty well solved by the adopting and executing of a policy to exclude high school students. The program was never for them, but some leniency was shown in accepting them. It was soon evident that the two groups could not satisfactorily be included, and for a while the older group dropped out because of the "kids."

Not only greater variety but greater depth of program has been possible this year because of new community resources which will be discussed as this year's setup is given.

### An Evening of Co-Education

And now perhaps you would like to follow a boy or girl through one of these co-ed evenings. But first you may ask who comes and how they know about it.

The first publicity, and occasionally some since, was sent out to the continuation school, employment offices, stores, churches and newspapers. Now that the program is established publicity seems unnecessary except through news items and notices to members, who bring in their friends.

The total enrollment in this program year is 375; interestingly enough there are 188 boys and 187 girls. Attendance has run from 85 to 125. Seventy-seven of those enrolled are between the ages of sixteen and eighteen. The rest, except twelve who are older than twenty-five, fall in the nineteen to twenty-four year age group. One hundred thirty-four of them this year have no jobs at all. The jobs held by the rest, some part-time, represent forty-eight different kinds of work. Clerks, factory workers, household employees, and restaurant workers outnumber the rest, although there is a goodly sprinkling of students from Junior College, business college and General Motors Institute of Technology. Eighty-two are either first or second generation foreign born as might be expected from Flint's population.

### A Busy Place on Wednesday Night!

On Wednesday evenings, from seven o'clock on, the first floor lobby of the Y.W.C.A. is a busy place. A registration desk is set up at one end and at the other is a free check room. This latter is more important than it might first appear for the Council members are insistent that it be used, not just because they cannot be responsible for wraps left elsewhere, but because they expect



members to come in and stay for the evening and appear and feel at home. At the registration desk some of the most important contacts are made. New members here fill out enrollment cards and find out about classes offered. Every member stops at the desk and checks in. This gives the registrar an opportunity to get acquainted with people and find out something of their problems which can be followed up later. Tickets for the dance are sold here for ten cents; this small fee which provides money to pay the orchestra is the only one required.

One of the registrar's jobs is to take care tactfully of those who come without money. Tickets are given free or often club or Council members take care of it. The rest of the expense is borne by the Industrial Department of the Y.W.C.A. whose committee and staff are responsible for this as well as the rest of that department's work. Last year, when a reduced budget of the Y.W.C.A. made curtailment in this department seem imminent, many individuals and a few organizations in the community came to the rescue with sums all the way from twenty-five cents to twenty-five dollars. One of the organizations which not only helped financially but with volunteer leaders is the Business and Professional Women's Club. Two of their members have had charge of the registration desk all year.

After registration and wraps are disposed of, members proceed to the second floor for classes or wait around the lobby for friends or go in the lounge, if there is time, for the spaciousness and furnishings there provide an atmosphere and develop a poise in meeting friends.

#### Classes and Still More Classes

The classes are arranged so that one may take two in one evening if desired. Ballroom

Such councils of young men as that functioning at the Flint, Michigan, Y. W. C. A., are helping in a number of cities to make co-recreation programs successful

dancing, one of the most popular, runs in two shifts to take care of those who want to learn the new steps and be ready for the dance at the end of the evening. Another group, very different but almost equally popular, was one called "Personal Interests." This was in reality a preparation for the marriage course taught by the health education director of the Clara Elizabeth Fund, a private foundation working with the Public Health Department. The response and frankness of discussions were interesting and gratifying. That course is being followed by one suggested by the Council and named by them "Etiquette." It includes instruction in the etiquette of the "hostess," of "courtship," or "eating out," and different speakers have been secured for each course. The series will close with a discussion of a wedding.

A number of musical groups have been tried with varying success according to the leadership available. Tap dancing had its appeal; a few wanted an art class, but not enough to keep a teacher; and crafts classes have interested a few. It is evident that these young folks want most to learn how to get along with people.

#### A Guidance Center

A new class was tried this year which was an experiment in the community. A guidance center for vocational counseling has been established, financed by a private foundation together with the Community Fund. Both the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. were used for making the necessary contacts with out-of-school youth. The staff of the

*(Continued on page 419)*



# Co-Recreation in the Y.W.C.A.—a Symposium

*In addition to the preceding article telling in some detail of programs in a number of local Y.W.C.A.'s, brief descriptions are given here of some of the co-recreational activities conducted in a few other associations*

**M**ONTHLY Supper Meeting for Dance Committee. The duties of a dance committee are made pleasant in New Haven, Connecticut, where young men and women committee members meet at monthly supper meetings, held in turn at homes of the fourteen members. After supper they plan the program, arrange for the orchestra, draw up announcements for the three Saturday dances per month, and have a social gathering. At the dance the committee leads the Paul Jones, acts as hosts and hostesses, serves the punch. Six boys handle the check room in rotation so that all may have opportunity to dance. From *Marjorie Lundvall*, New Haven Y.W.C.A.

"Play Night Has Become Quite Popular," says the Omaha, Nebraska, Y.W.C.A. of its monthly young people's open house night. On these occasions the whole building is humming with activities fitted into every available space: the gym for badminton and ping-pong; the gym balcony for shuffleboard; the lobby for box hockey (which is noisily and enthusiastically enjoyed). The north and south parlors are dedicated to table games, cards, darts, ring toss, bean bags and pick-up-sticks. At eleven o'clock there is always dancing in the gym. Admission is free to Y.W.C.A. members; ten cents to outsiders. Pop, candy and popcorn are sold. The Play Nites are in charge of Council groups. One girl is in charge of each activity for a Nite, several girls acting as hostesses for each evening. From *Edith Koehler*, Omaha Y.W.C.A.

**Swimming Clubs a Co-Recreational Success.** When health education classes began to slump in November, the Sioux City Y.W.C.A. Board questioned: "Have folks stopped going places? If not, where do they go and what attracts them? And so what should the Y.W.C.A. offer?" The conclusion was that people do not go places in groups and they like mixed or co-recreational activities. As a result, various mixed activities were promoted with great success. One of these was the Junior Mariner Club, a swimming club (for boys and girls

aged 13-17) whose only requisites were some swimming skill and a desire to improve skills under training. The group enjoys a hard workout in the pool followed by a noisy good time at a supper meeting and then another hour of singing and games. From *Julia Wilcox*, General Secretary, Sioux City Y.W.C.A.

**Chaperones Still Have a Place.** The Y.W.C.A. advocates enlisting the support of mature hostesses or chaperons for all evening dances. Members of the P.T.A., Y.W.C.A. committee women and their husbands, and other qualified adults have willingly volunteered to assist at Y.W.C.A. dances in Moline, Illinois, Sioux City, Iowa, and many other places where highly successful affairs of this type are held. "No Y.W.C.A. secretary should conduct an evening dance without the backing of such adult volunteers," says *Edith Gates*, Director Health Education, National Board, Y.W.C.A.

**Saturday Nite Club in Moline.** Saturday night is a night on which young people specially want to go places and do things. This need has been met in Moline, Illinois, by a Saturday Nite Club open to high school students only, sponsored by Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. Badminton, shuffleboard, pool, ping-pong, Chinese checkers, pick-up-sticks, radio are among the activities enjoyed. From *Mrs. Betty Veterane*, Secretary, Y.W.C.A.

**Adult Play Nite in Wichita.** Play Nite is divided into three parts: (1) Games such as shuffleboard, ping-pong, table checkers and hand badminton; (2) More active games such as social mixers, relays and stunts. In this division, one game is played for boys and one for girls only. (3) Rhythmic work such as a circle dance, a reel type of dance, square dancing. Then some popular step like the Lambeth Walk is taught, and the evening ends with social dancing. Among the volunteer groups which help to put on these affairs are members of the morning gym class and their husbands, members of the health council, and groups of college students. From *June E. Morell*, Wichita, Kansas, Y.W.C.A.

# It's Easy to Have Fun!

Especially when there's a "Y" Outing Club which is ready to offer you recreational opportunities ranging from sailing and canoeing to concerts!

**P**ICNICS, outdoor steak roasts, sailing, horseback rides, mountain climbing, canoeing, bicycle rides, motoring, bowling, ice and roller skating, ski trips, tobogganning, maple sugar parties, fall foliage trips, swimming, week-end and eight-day camping trips, concerts, theater parties, lectures and socials—pick your favorites and sign up!

That's how easy it is for members of the Boston "Y" Outing Club to have fun. This club for young men and women was organized four years ago by some folks who had learned from previous occasional outings that outdoor life is fun. They limited membership to interested young people eighteen to thirty-five years of age. They decided that it should not be necessary for a man to belong to the Y.M.C.A. in order to join the club, but they penalized him a little if he did not! They set the annual membership fee at \$.25 for "Y" members, \$2.00 for non-members and \$1.00 for girls. Since its organization, the original membership of forty has grown to 315. In June there were 169 men and 146 women. The number and variety of activities has kept pace with the growing membership and last month there were thirty-eight activities (more than one a day) from which to choose.

A great many people think of summer week-ends as their only out-of-doors opportunities, while others limit their outdoor life to a one or two weeks' vacation. The Outing Club, however, operates the year round, adjusting its program to the season, and offering to its members continuous opportunities for vacation highlights. This is how it is done. Each year two girls and three men are selected by the club members to serve as a planning com-



**By C. LESLIE UPDEGRAPH**  
Young Men's Secretary  
Huntington Avenue Branch, Y.M.C.A.  
Boston, Massachusetts

mittee. The committee elects its own chairman and, working with a secretary of the Y.M.C.A., makes whatever policy decisions are necessary and plans the monthly schedule of events.

Each month a meeting of the club is held when movies are shown or lectures given on subjects of interest to outdoor enthusiasts. This is followed by a stunt, skit or comedy act prepared and presented by members of the group. The schedule of events for the coming month is distributed (it is later mailed to absentees) and the program closes with a social period and refreshments.

The monthly schedule is always eagerly awaited. It is like an elaborate menu, people picking out those events which most suit their tastes or their pocketbooks. It usually contains a few surprises and its release rings the gong for reservation making. There follows a rush for the sign-up book, and a flood of phone calls from folks who wish to get their names



on certain lists before they are filled to capacity.

It is easy to make reservations. No deposits are required. The member's credit is good. On the basis of the reservation list preparations are completed. Commitments are made for food, supplies, theater tickets, transportation and sleeping accommodations, often to the tune of several hundred dollars, yet nothing is collected from the member until he starts on the trip. On some events we announce a date after which cancellations will not be accepted. On some others, each reservation is final, but the general rule applying to all events is stated as follows: "If, when reservations are cancelled, we have made advance guarantees involving expense on our part, you will be held responsible for the amount involved." The system works. In four years' time we have written off about \$2.00.

#### **And It's Inexpensive, Too**

The Outing Club has shown that it is not only easy to have fun but that it is inexpensive as well. In July 1938, we conducted our first week's vacation trip. Our destination was Mt. Katahdin in Maine. We had interesting stop-overs en route for sight seeing, swimming, and outdoor meals around a campfire. We took in Mt. Cadillac and visited the great paper mill at Millinocket. We packed our blankets and food up to Chimney Pond and spent three days climbing over Mt. Katahdin's peaks and its famous knife edge, sleeping at night in open shelters. In returning to Boston we crossed the huge Ripogenus Dam, canoed on Moosehead Lake, and drove back through the White Mountain area of New Hampshire. Fun and fellowship ruled the trip to such an extent that the group who called themselves the Maine-iacs later held a reunion banquet where two of the girls introduced a song and one of the men a poem, both written to commemorate the happy occasion. And the cost for the entire week, including food, transportation and everything was less than twenty dollars.

We took a three-day Labor Day week-end trip to the Adirondacks in New York State for \$7.50, and for \$5.25 we offered our annual Maple Sugar week-end this year. One hundred and ten members signed up for the latter, necessitating our dividing the group and con-

ducting two trips on consecutive weeks. We stayed at an old New England Guest House which dates back to an original grant by the King of England. The local Grange sponsored an old-fashioned dance in our honor, and the Mayor and Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce were there to welcome us. We visited a sugar orchard, pausing to drink raw sap from the pails hanging on the maple trees and to have our pictures taken with the oxen which are used to collect the pails of sap. Then on to the sugar house where the sap is evaporated into maple syrup, for a sugaring off party. This included the opportunity for each one to whip up a dish of hot syrup until it became maple sugar; to pour hot syrup on snow and eat the resultant crispy maple sugar "frogs"; and to top it off with coffee, doughnuts and sour pickles. Then an afternoon of skiing, a late dinner and the time had arrived to start home. Not bad for \$5.25, is it?

Ski and mountain climbing week-ends cost as little as \$2.50 or may run up to \$5.00, depending on the distance covered and the accommodations provided.

For those who lack the time or money for week-end trips, there is a wealth of local events of varied types and costs from which to choose. During the last year we have had 281 events attended by 3933 men and 3466 young women. The average cost per event was 37½ cents. Not too expensive, is it?

#### **Some of the Club's Accomplishments**

We are frequently asked just what is accomplished by the program of the Outing Club. In the first place, it clearly develops and deepens one's interest in the out-of-doors. Some folks feel that man was not intended to spend his time indoors; that crowded city life is unnatural; that there dwells in most of us an instinctive interest (though often dormant) in outdoor life. The Outing Club provides a vehicle through which young people may thus compensate for busy city existence.

In the second place it also teaches a variety of outdoor skills. When they first join, most of the members belong in the novice class. Soon they are introduced to new skills. They learn to roller skate, ride a horse, ski or ride a bike; to climb a mountain without undue fatigue or build a campfire, to prepare a meal

or tote a well packed knapsack. They learn the joy that comes with personal accomplishment.

In the third place the club provides a high type of sociability and friendliness. A big city can be a lonely place for young people. What better aids to friendship are there than through participation in outdoor activities? The informality of dress, the give and take of banter, songs and stunts around the campfire, climbing side by side up a mountain trail, a sunset, hilarious laughter, wisecracking—all lend themselves toward the breakdown of reserve and unnaturalness. Good fellowship and good sportsmanship are the club's dominant emphasis. Few of its members join as couples. Most of them come "stag." The club is by no means a matrimonial agency and its members have no appearance of being lonely hearts. Yet, several marriages have resulted from friendships formed in the club. It is an excellent proving ground. A young couple should have the opportunity of seeing each other not only at their best but also at their worst. If a boy can see a girl dead tired, rain soaked and wind blown; if a girl can observe whether a boy accepts the give and take of cooperative living by submerging personal wishes for the benefit of the good of the whole; if they see each other under these circumstances and still are in love, well, it doesn't augur too poorly for their future happiness, does it?

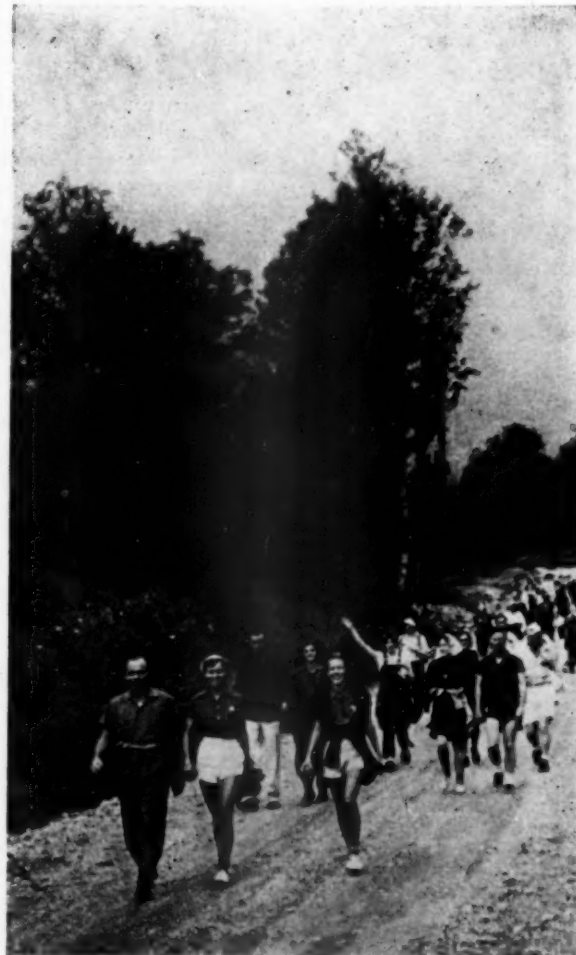
Some folks ask about the standards which we try to maintain. With three hundred young people of different personal standards and backgrounds, they foresee danger ahead for us. The dangers are more

imagined than real. Before a young person joins the club we suggest that he go on some event of his choice as a visitor. It gives us a means of sizing up prospective members and, what is just as important, it allows them to look us over and determine if we are the kind of folks with whom they wish to become affiliated. We have an active and enthusiastic membership. We want to keep it so for we are not interested in merely collecting membership fees. We believe that if we must err, we should do so in making our standards too high rather than too low. We have few rules, but it is thoroughly understood in the club that alcoholic beverages have no place in any event connected with the Outing Club. When this is disregarded we explain that we have neither the right nor the desire to dictate another's way of life but as far as the club's activities are concerned the individual must either give up liquor or give up the club.

When away on weekend trips every effort is made for those who wish it to attend Mass. For those who remain at camp a brief devotional service is held with either the leader or members of the group conducting it.

At no time in the history of the club has there been any membership promotion. We still harbor the old-fashioned idea that if a program is really good enough, if it is well conducted and actually meets the needs and interests of young people, there will be no lack of members. Information about the club is passed along from friend to friend. One enthusiast recently counted thirty-three present members

(Continued on page 420)



# Co-Recreation at the University of Wisconsin

Where interest groups rather than mass recreation are the basis of the co-recreation program

**A**LTHOUGH many leisure-time activities of students are segregated along sex lines, the college campus is the scene for more co-recreation than is any other area. Groups of college age utilize their leisure time more frequently in co-recreation than do other age groups.

Wisconsin leaders in recreation early recognized the advantages of handling students in relatively cohesive social groupings rather than as a mass student body. Important examples are the resident groups: fraternities, sororities, dormitory houses, and organized rooming houses. Recreation is planned for these groups on an inter-house basis. While this program is not essentially co-recreational, the grouping is pertinent to this discussion because so many co-recreational activities based on interest groupings are organized and publicized through the medium of house units.

Other examples of cohesive social groupings result from a community of interest among the members. The program at Wisconsin for these groups is definitely co-recreational. Most of the discussion of this paper is concerned with the co-recreational experiences of students in special interest and multi-interest groups.

## Findings of a Study

A study of leisure time utilization was made at the University of Wisconsin in 1934.\* Among the findings of this research was the fact that more than 75% of all students were involved in leisure time activity arising out of interest in the other sex, one of the main drives in co-recreation. This type of activity absorbed 8.4% of the leisure time of Wisconsin students.

Dancing as a co-recreational activity is participated in by 73.6% of the students. This includes a variety of dances ranging from the formal Junior Prom to the folk dancing organized last year by jitterbug fans. Classes in ballroom dancing reach several hundred students yearly, which

By REUBEN L. HILL  
and  
MARY MACKECHNIE

may partially account for the thousands participating in this mass co-recreational activity.

Table I is a presentation of the relative popularity of co-recreational activities among Wisconsin students at the time this study took place.

TABLE I

The Popularity of Co-Recreational Leisure Time Pursuits, Ranked According to the Total Number of Students Who Participate in Each, Either Regularly or Occasionally.

Activity	Percent of Students Who Participate	Rank
Movies .....	84.40	1
Dancing .....	73.60	2
Out Door Exercise .....	68.30	3
Sports Spectator .....	58.20	4
Cards .....	51.80	5
Sports Participator .....	48.50	6
Parlor Dates .....	41.20	7
Union Lectures .....	36.80	8
Student Organizations .....	36.70	9
Concerts .....	34.40	10
Dramatics .....	34.00	11
Hobbies .....	24.10	12
Forums and Debates .....	15.90	13
Teas and Receptions .....	11.50	14
Art .....	8.60	15
Bowling .....	3.83	16

Outdoor sports are largely co-recreational at Wisconsin, thanks to the interest of both sexes in hiking, canoeing, cycling, skiing, skating, tobogganing and swimming. The Wisconsin Hoofers, the outing club, sponsors all these outdoor excursions and they are usually for mixed groups. Faculty members as well as students participate as members and leaders.

Cards probably do not play a large role as a co-recreational activity at Wisconsin since most of the card playing on this campus appears to be in segregated groups. During the recent depression bridge became popular in the Union for mixed groups and an occasional mixed tournament took place, but in general this activity has lost its allure as economic conditions have improved.

\* Butts, Porter F., *A study of Student Residence and Student Use of Leisure*, 1934.



Over two hundred student leaders serve on house committees of the Wisconsin Union, planning and administering a social and recreational program for the student body. (See Table II which lists the typical activities making up the program.) Working closely with this group are church centers, clubs, and other special interest groups planning their own special social events.

Dramatic groups have fine opportunities in campus co-recreation. Studio productions, varsity plays, operettas, and radio broadcasts form a program to which hundreds of students are attracted yearly. Several dramatic clubs of mixed membership operate in play writing and play production, giving students the opportunity of moving up the ladder from the status of apprentices to full-fledged players.

Music-minded students of both sexes enjoy phonograph symphony concerts in a special music room at the Union. The selection process which takes place here brings to the Music Room a highly congenial co-recreational group. Other music experiences for mixed groups include the mixed choruses, community sings, a Christmas festival and pageant "Numen Lumen," and the many concerts sponsored by the Union.

Hobby groups find congenial atmosphere in the informal art and hobby workshop in the new Union building. Opportunity to putter with or without instruction has resulted in creative work in this place of co-recreation. Picture framing, linoleum blocks for Christmas cards and small scale carpentry are activities which bring boys and girls together directly through common interests.

One of the last activities mentioned by students, but important from the standpoint of co-recreation is the group labeled "teas, receptions, lunches, and coffee hours," where students of both sexes meet with faculty members. The advantages of the small college with its reputation for informality and intimacy are attained in some measure at a university as large as Wisconsin by the regular coffee hours in the Union, which bring faculty members and students together on an informal basis. In addition, the university president and his wife spend Wednesday afternoon "at home" and are fast building up a desire in students to attend the president's monthly teas. When well planned, these teas and receptions can

be a worthwhile co-recreational experience. Large-scale receptions, open houses, and dances preceding or following cafeteria-style "brunches" (breakfast-lunches) or suppers have always been a popular form of co-recreational activity. Mortar Board supper, sponsored by the senior women's honorary society is the oldest example of this type of entertainment. Freshman Open House, staged by the Freshman Orientation Committee with a low cost supper and free dancing and games for new students during their first week at school is a successful co-recreational mixer. More recently the desire to raise money for victims of floods, wars, and other disasters has prompted the rise of twelve o'clock brunches followed by an hour or so of dancing or other entertainment.

Some of the most unique co-recreational activities planned by students are in the field of forums and discussions. The library committee of the Union has organized browsing sessions in the Union library at which leaders in the field of literature discuss the latest and most controversial works.

Another student-planned discussion program is the friendship and marriage series which began spontaneously two years ago as a series of lectures for men and a series for women. The result of these segregated discussions has been a request for mixed lectures and discussions which have been followed with some enthusiasm. Men air their views to co-eds and the girls reciprocate. An example of the way frank discussion of the problems of courtship and marriage before marriage takes place, is the case of G . . . House. Men in this house at the men's dormitories invited girls in a house from the women's dormitory to meet with them in discussing "What a Girl Expects from a Fellow on a Date." The results were so interesting that a second meeting followed.

These are experiences which help to make other phases of co-recreation meaningful.

Summarizing the program, in Table II will be found a list of the activities which are being conducted. These reveal both unique and common leisure-time pursuits.

TABLE II

Dances
Dateless
Matinee—Saturday afternoon
Class—Sophomore Shuffle,
Junior Prom, Senior Ball
House—Fraternity, Inter-lodg-
ing house, Dormitory

Co-recreation at Wisconsin exists mainly in special interest and multi-interest groups, with decreasing emphasis on mass student body recreation. Using these interest groups as nuclei, the co-recreation program centers on dancing, outdoor sports, public services in the campus community, student clubs, dramatics, music, arts and crafts, hobbies, teas, receptions, coffee hours, and discussion groups.



Table II—(Continued)

Dancing classes	<b>Music</b>
Clubs—International, Graduate, etc.	Union Music Room programs
Folk dancing	Sunday afternoon concerts
Special Events—Military Ball, Homecoming, etc.	Supper musicales
<b>Outdoor Sports</b>	Band and orchestra
Winter carnival	Mixed choruses
Hikes, bike trips, canoe trips, ski outings, toboggan parties, skating parties	<b>Community Sings</b>
Summer session outings	Tudor Singers
<b>Physical Recreation</b>	Summer sings
Tennis—mixed doubles	Christmas festival
Bowling	<b>Hobby and Creative Work in Union Art and Hobby Workshop</b>
Badminton	<b>Receptions, Teas, Suppers</b>
Swimming	President's Teas
<b>Community Service</b>	Coffee hours
Union House Committees	Wisconsin Salon of Art
Wage and Hours Committee	Mortar Board
Housing	Freshman Supper
Community Chest, All campus	<b>Clubs</b>
Social Action groups	Graduate Club
<b>Political Groups</b>	International Club
Young Progressives	Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A.
Young Republicans	Church groups
Young Communist League	Country Life Association
	Honorary groups: Artus, Alpha Kappa Delta, etc.

**Dramatics**

Wisconsin Players  
Apprentices  
Theater productions

**Discussion Groups**

Browsing sessions

Friendship and marriage Forums

**Special Parties**

Christmas party  
Thanksgiving party

**Training Student Leaders**

The program of co-recreation at Wisconsin will be stimulated in the future by the training of group leaders in recreation now being started at the Union. Five active students are systematizing their work by taking courses in group work theory and group work practice. The problems of group organization and leadership and the techniques used by group leaders are discussed and tried out in 300 hours of practice with campus groups. A problem met by these campus group workers not met by group leaders in settlement houses and boy scout work is that of acting as advisors and leaders to groups of their own age. These student leaders help to provide the critical evaluation of the going program working as they do with the perspective of "participant observers." Already they are bringing in suggestions for revamping the present program and adding to it new and novel activities to meet the changing recreational and co-recreational needs of students on the campus.



# Along Comes Hallowe'en!

And that's the time to have a party

**Y**OU WON'T FIND it difficult to persuade your friends to come to a Hallowe'en party, but you'll want to invite them in as novel a way as possible, so try this plan.

Prepare black witches from construction paper, and make a broom for each witch by tying some small bristles around a toothpick. In white ink write the following invitation:

Follow the witches whither they go  
And you'll be sure to end your woe.  
Return this broom and we will know  
You'll join us for fun, what ho!

The name, address, date, and time are written on the reverse side of the witch. The little broom is to be returned as an acceptance.

## Decorations

Almost anything goes for Hallowe'en decorations! Witches, black cats, ghosts, goblins, pumpkins, and skeletons may be used in profusion, and lamps may be turned into queer and eerie shapes by the judicious use of crepe paper.

If your guests must go upstairs to leave their wraps, why not make them walk through a ghost? If there is no stairway, the ghost may be used in the main entrance.

**How to Make the Ghost.** A broom makes a good foundation for the ghost. Attach a ghost cutout to the top of the handle with gummed tape. Use an old piece of cloth over the head,

Hallowe'en is on the way, and with it will come the urge for a good time, a mad, glad, carefree time, when dignity is thrown to the winds and recaptured with difficulty! Here are a few suggestions for activities gathered from bulletins issued by recreation departments in a number of communities. Most of them, however, come from the Playground and Recreation Board of Decatur, Illinois. We hope many of them will be helpful for the party you are planning. And if you feel you have thought up some better ideas, we hope you will send them in to us so that we may pass them on.

knotting the corners to give the effect of a hood. Wrap ten pieces of wire twelve inches long with strips of white crepe paper until they are thick enough to serve as fingers. Attach to the ends of a heavy flag stick fastened across the broom. Cut long fringes of crepe paper and fasten four thicknesses to the "arms." Attach the broom to the newel post with spool wire.

**Pirate's Den.** If the party is to be held in the basement, turn it into a pirate's den by stretching paper painted to represent rocks around the bottom of the room and placing pirate head cutouts on top to resemble pirates looking over the wall. Fasten strings crisscross overhead and hang orange and black crepe moss over them. Fasten witch, bat, owl, and pumpkin cutouts among the moss. Arrange the strings so that they are just as low as possible to give the impression of a cave. The tables for refreshments or games should be barrels, and boxes are used for chairs. Bottles with candles complete the picture.

If you have a spare room, why not turn it into the spooks' graveyard? Using small kindergarten chairs, make slip covers for the backs out of white paper. On these write the names of the guests and any fitting epithet about them. Sprinkle dried leaves about the floor. An old trunk lid might make an appropriate "grave" for someone. It's pretty spooky to have a ghost rise up from behind one of the tombstones!



### Some Activities

**Follow the Cat.** After all the guests have arrived, the master of ceremonies stands in the center of the room, unrolls a scroll, and reads: "Cry for your partner and form in line ready to advance. We are going to start the Caterwaul with a Catacoustic Dance."

"Cat criers" are passed around. These are the "squashy" kind that "meow" when squeezed. Each cat crier has a number pasted on it, and the guests find their partners by crying for them. The wail is sent out fire-alarm fashion. For instance, if the number is 13, the crier is squeezed once, pause, then squeezed three times in quick succession.

After partners have been found a "Follow the Cat" game starts the line, marching two by two with everybody crying out loud. They must not only follow the leader, but must imitate his catlike antics as well.

### Mouse Hunt.

Oh, hear ye cats! A mouse there is  
With a price upon its head;  
A reward awaits the cat that brings  
It back, alive or dead.

A toy mouse is concealed in a not too obvious spot—the toe of a slipper, for instance, or the folds of a closed umbrella hidden in a closet. Small cardboard cats on which the following words are written: "Cold," "Freezing," "Warm," "Burning," are placed around the rooms to help guide the searchers. The reward is a black kitten dressed for the occasion in a ruff of orange crepe paper.

**Pumpkin Exchange.** This is a good starter because it gives the guests a chance to mingle. Seven orange colored cardboard pumpkins are required for each guest. They may be cut from orange paper. One letter of P-U-M-P-K-I-N should be printed on each pumpkin. The pumpkins should be shuffled and dealt into as many piles of seven as there are guests. Each seven should be placed in an envelope. Put the envelopes in a hollowed out pumpkin, and when all the guests have arrived allow each one to select one envelope. The object is to collect seven pumpkins that spell the word "pumpkin." Undesirable letters may be exchanged for others. Only one letter may be exchanged at a time, and if a person is asked for a letter that he cannot supply he may not be asked for another, but the questioner must go to someone else. The first person who gets the complete word should receive a small prize.

**The Fatal Blow.** Mark off a large sheet of wrapping paper in six inch squares, and in each square write a fortune. Place the paper on the floor. Each player, in turn, standing on a mark three feet from the paper, places a small feather on the palm of his hand and blows it. The square in which the feather lands determines his fate.

**Nut Pass.** From a bag of nuts in charge of a "starter" one nut at a time is passed along the line. All players sit close so that the passing may not be detected by the "spotter," who stands at a little distance. If at any time the spotter thinks that he knows who holds the nut, he challenges that person. If he is right he gets the nut, and that person becomes spotter. If wrong the one holding the nut may keep it, and another one is passed. At the end of fifteen minutes the one who has collected the most nuts wins.

**A Hallowe'en Fortune Game.** Provide a quart milk bottle, a tablespoon, and a dish containing corn grains. Each contestant in turn holds the bottle on the top of his head with his right hand, while with his left hand he scoops up as many grains of corn as will stay in the tablespoon. Standing before a mirror he tries to transfer the corn to the bottle, his efforts usually being attended with considerable failure. Each contestant tries to put three tablespoonfuls of corn into the bottle. Each player's score is the number of corn grains which he succeeds in getting into the bottle. The player with the highest score will be the one who at the age of fifty will have amassed the fortune in thousands of dollars as indicated by each kernel of corn.

**Bad Luck.** Allow the guests ten minutes to write as many superstitions or bad luck omens as they can remember. The player with the longest list of correct omens wins a prize.

**Pumpkin Roll.** The "pumpkins" are oranges with faces put on with paint or ink. Put them on the floor, and when the signal is given let all the players start rolling them toward the other side of the room with pencils or small sticks. The first to reach the goal wins the game.

### Collaring the Cat.

Health, happiness, luck—yes, all of that  
Comes to the one who collars the cat;  
But he who fails three times, they say,  
A forfeit he will have to pay.

A toy cat is placed at one end of the room. Each player in turn stands eight feet away from the cat and attempts to collar it, using three dif-

ferent sized embroidery hoops. Those who fail pay forfeits.

**Black Cat Bowling.** Cut seven cats from black mat stock. Insert them in a wire menu holder so that they will stand upright. Then give each guest an apple rather irregular in shape and let them in turn roll the apple toward the cats, and see how many they can knock down with one blow. A very appropriate prize might be a box of licorice cats.

**Cat-Ography.** Give each guest a pencil and paper. Ask each person to write on his paper a word containing the word "cat." When he has done this, the paper is folded and passed to the person on his right. Then in turn each person must act out or interpret the word written on his piece of paper for the others to guess. Here are some suggestions: Catnip, catapult, catastrophe, cattle, catch, catwalk, caterpillar.

#### Table Decorations and Favors

An important part of the fun on Hallowe'en comes when the guests stop long enough to eat. Attractive table decorations and favors as well as refreshments should be planned.

**Pumpkin House.** A wire frame can be made in the shape of a pumpkin, or a real pumpkin can be used. In either case, cut the eyes, nose, and mouth out and place Christmas tree lights on the inside for light. Make a picket fence of black mat stock and place about the pumpkin house. Witches, black cats and owls may be placed on the fence posts or on top of the house. This will make a colorful and interesting centerpiece.

**Lollipop Ghost.** For this you will need a round lollipop. Push the stick firmly into a large round mint and it will stand upright. Then cover the lollipop with either white crepe paper long enough to hide the mint on which it stands or use a white handkerchief. Tie a "ribbon" of orange crepe paper around its "neck" and paint large eyes upon it. If a handkerchief is used, pin black circles of paper on for eyes.

**Apple Candlesticks.** These may be used for place cards as well as favors. Use very small

tubs, such as the tiny washtubs in children's miniature washing sets or individual tin muffin pans. Fill with water and get a very tiny crab apple to float in each. In order to make the apples float so that the candles will stand straight up, attach lead dress weights or fishline sinkers to the bottom of each apple by a very short string fastened to a pin, to act as a counterweight. Paint the name of the person on the tub or stick a small piece of paper bearing the name through the handle.

**Popcorn Ball Witch.** Wrap a corn ball in yellow cellophane. Tie at the top, cutting off the surplus, thus leaving just enough for a "neck." Stick a marshmallow on a toothpick, insert in the neck, and draw the features with melted chocolate. Gather a strip of crepe paper for the cape and add a pointed hat made of two flat pieces of black mounting board fastened together at the point and at the edges of the brim. A broom made of candy and a bit of brown crepe paper may be added.

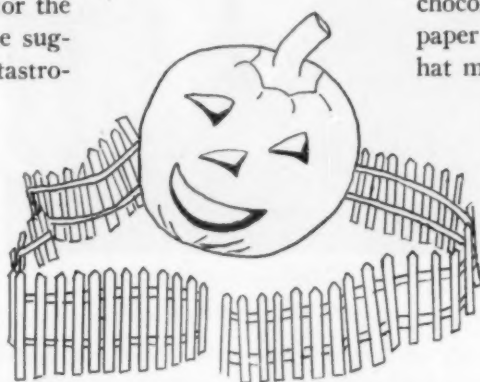
**Apple Caldron.** Cut the stem end off a bright red apple and hollow out the center. Fill with celery and nut salad. Wrap three pieces of heavy wire with black crepe paper and fasten together tightly at the top with fine wire. Paste a silhouette of a cat, witch, or owl to one of the wires. Spread out so that they will stand up. Just before serving, stand in the plate over the apple salad.

An orange may be used for the caldron and filled with candy or nuts. Scrape the inside out of the orange and let the skin dry for a very short time.

**Pipe Cleaner Favors.** Witches, owls, black cats, ghosts, pirates, and many other Hallowe'en characters may be made with pipe cleaners. A few twists of the cleaners, some bits of paper, and some paste will make many attractive and amusing favors for the table.

**Walnut Favors.** Use walnut shells for favors. Write fortunes on narrow strips of paper, roll them up, put one in each nutshell, and seal the halves together.

(Continued on page 421)



A pumpkin house will make an effective and colorful centerpiece

# A Business Executive Turns Park Administrator

**R**OBERT J. DUNHAM is coming to the Boston Recreation Congress. As president of the Chicago Park District since it consolidated the former score of independent districts into one major and centralized administration five years ago, his accomplishments have commanded national recognition. Members of boards of administration from other cities will doubtless welcome an opportunity to consult so outstanding a figure in the field of both public and private administration.

Mr. Dunham retired from active private business several years ago. He was known throughout the country as the industrialist who in private enterprise first achieved notable success in the Universal Oil Products Company after his days in Harvard University. Following this he held executive office for about twenty years with Armour & Company, retiring as that company's vice-president. He did not retire, however, to escape responsibilities and enjoy a life of relaxation. Retirement to him was an adventure in responding to interests which had long attracted him. There was art, in which he is something of a connoisseur. There was opportunity for further travel, which he had always enjoyed. But most compelling was his desire to apply his vast business experience to public administration, devoting his extraordinary abilities to the service of his fellow men.

He carried through the great task of setting up and operating the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission, creating its machinery and organizing its operations. When the twenty-two independent park districts of Chicago were consolidated by vote of the city electorate, he took as a challenge the invitation of his friend, Mayor Kelly, to accept the presidency of the new Board of Park Commissioners, in 1934. A superhuman task was



ROBERT J. DUNHAM

in prospect. Few of the former districts were financially solvent. Park buildings were closed in several of the former jurisdictions. Others were operating under caretakers only, or were staffed by workers on relief, unacquainted with park operations. Bond issues were generally in default. Grounds and facilities were in many instances uncared for. Only the major systems of the former administration were operating a normal service. The job called for extraordinary financial statesmanship, as well as for inspired planning and construction.

In human engineering he faced the challenge of welding into effective unity an operating personnel holding in common only suspicion of each other, and of making a reduced fraction of the normal operating budget yield, in a time of universal social crisis, a return in ministry to public well-being. He faced the certainty of criticism and misunderstanding. But the challenge appealed to his fighting spirit. Restricted as the funds were, it was still big business, calling for a master hand in management, and while he was unfamiliar with parks except as he casually knew them, he relied upon the ability which he had cultivated throughout his business career to cut through extraneous confusions and get at the core of his problem, to master that, and build an organization into frictionless efficiency.

No salary was involved for the ten-hour working day in prospect, but there was the promise of adventure in grappling with new problems, creating a new and socially useful organization. He accepted the appointment without hesitation, accepted it even while he was still serving as head of the Relief Commission, and for a time, at least, must do double duty.

*(Continued on page 421)*





*Courtesy Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department*

## Hallowe'en in Manhasset

*By* REX M. CATE  
Physical Education Director  
Manhasset Public Schools

**H**ALLOWE'EN in Manhasset in the years prior to 1937 was probably no worse or no better than in similar communities.

There was the usual marking with chalk on automobiles and store windows and ringing of door bells by younger children. There also was, however, a marked degree of vandalism—the carrying off of signs, and destruction of hedges and property by the older boys and young men.

Some citizens thought it merely a nuisance, but others regarded it as a civic outrage, a sign of the laxity of the school system, the indifference of parents, and the deterioration of the younger generation. To pacify this latter group, the American Legion organized a volunteer committee to guard the community and aid the police in apprehending offenders. This committee was successful in what it attempted to do, but its work was simply to aid the police in catching the culprits rather than in seeking the fundamental cause in order to prevent the vandalism which occurred each year.

The school authorities were brought face to face with the Hallowe'en situation in 1936 when several members of the football team landed in the hands of the police. An un-diplomatic officer handled the

situation badly by using the strong, simple, but vividly understandable language of the longshoreman. The boys' fathers objected to this

treatment and brought charges against the police officer.

### They Decided to Do Something About It

In spite of all this hullabaloo, no attempt was made to meet the disturbance constructively. Parents blamed the school and police. The police blamed the parents. Finally, after a meeting of the Department of Physical Education of the Manhasset schools, the members went with a constructive plan to the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education, and the School Community Association. They wanted to open the high school building for the students, parents, the alumni, and boy or girl friends from neighboring communities for an evening of wholesome, legitimate fun.

There were many objections. Would the children go on to other communities or to undesirable places after the party was over? Would the large number of cars parked around the school provide temptation for mischief? Would the building be

**The story of a Long Island community and its determination to provide for its young people Hallowe'en entertainment designed to "insure sane recreation which would foster a carnival spirit within bounds of decency."**

abused? Nevertheless, a committee was formed to discuss the party. Each high school class president, the General Organization president, the football captain and certain "key" boys and girls represented the students. Some of these "key" committeemen were school leaders and others were often troublemakers. By including the latter the committee enlisted their energies for a good cause. The school authorities were represented by the high school principal and the head of Health and Physical Education. The School Community Association sent its president, the chairman of the guidance committee, and two members at large.

The committee discussed the situation frankly. Both students and adults agreeing that something should be done, they decided that some sort of "participating entertainment should be provided to insure sane recreation for the youth of Manhasset which would foster a carnival spirit within bounds of decency."

With this quotation as a standard, the joint committee went to work. An executive committee of four, composed of two citizens, a faculty member and a student, appointed subordinate committees: program, advertising, refreshments, community singing, bridge (for parents), games (for children who did not dance), music and dancing, amateur hour, booths, decoration, and admission.

The advertising was done through the local papers and the art department of the school made the posters.

### And This Is What They Did!

Students, parents and teachers were urged to come in costume. Most of the students and many of the parents and teachers did. Since the idea was to have something doing every minute, the building was opened at 7 P. M. At 7:30 games of low organization, relays and stunts were conducted in the gymnasium. This part of the evening's entertainment was brought to a close by a grand parade of costumes with prizes for the "best," the "most original," and the "funniest."

At 8:30 an "amateur hour" called the group to the auditorium for twelve acts—ten by students and two by parents. From 10:00 until 1:30 an excellent orchestra provided music for dancing. Chosen by the students, the orchestra had to be paid by the General Organization, which meant that funds had to be denied athletic teams.

During this time class rooms were opened with a teacher, a student, and a parent in charge. The visitors had their fortunes told, bobbed for apples, ate pies, played ping-pong, went through a chamber of horrors or danced a Virginia Reel.

The refreshment committee had one of the biggest jobs. This committee was made up entirely of mothers, though they had to call for assistance. Two hundred dozen doughnuts, three barrels of cider, two barrels of apples, besides quantities of home made cake and cookies, were served at intermission.

The bridge committee had set up tables and chairs in the school library for parents who might wish to play bridge. Two couples played only one hand—after that they were too busy watching and joining the festivities.

### The Result of It All

The community sing was not successful, but other than that the Hallowe'en party was a great success. There was no damage done to property in the town. The police had a night off as far as Manhasset was concerned. The American Legion committee reported the streets quiet and no disturbances. A few store windows and automobiles were marked with chalk between 6:00 and 8:00 P. M. by very small children.

The young people didn't go on to other communities, or to undesirable places after the party was over. The janitors and some volunteer parents stationed to watch the cars parked about the building reported that none were disturbed. The only damage to the school occurred when one enthusiast threw a chair out of a lavatory window. The building was dirty, however, and the janitors worked all night to clean up. But even the janitors declared it was worth it.

In 1938 the American Legion, the Chamber of Commerce, the School Community Association, Women's Clubs and other civic organizations contributed a total of \$200 in order that there might be another party. The Hallowe'en party of 1938 naturally saw many improvements, corrections and refinements, but the underlying thought was the same—"to foster a carnival spirit within the bounds of decency" and to provide a proper place to house this carnival spirit.

In Manhasset the school and the community are going to continue to foster and provide a place for a decent Hallowe'en.

# You Asked for It!

**I**N OXFORD, OHIO, a group of Hi-Y boys made out a list of questions which they asked Camp Fire Girls to answer for them. Nelle Overholtz, Guardian of the

group, says: "This pleased the girls very much and they spent two full meetings in preparing their answers. In looking over these questions and answers you will notice the echo of college life. Our little town has Miami University, a State College, and Western College for Women—about 3,100 college students—more than the population of our town. You can well imagine the special problems which this situation presents."

These questions and answers have come to us from Camp Fire Girls, Inc. When you are asked to answer these, or similar questions in your co-recreation program this list may be a life-saver!

## The Questions

1. What should a boy spend on the average date?
2. Do girls object to being tagged at dances?
3. Do you like humorous or serious discussions on a date?
4. Do Stewart girls object to Stewart boys bringing outside dates?
5. Where should a boy meet a girl for a date?
6. Should a girl go with a boy if her parents object?
7. Should a boy have a car on a date? Is it expected?
8. Do you expect a boy to treat uptown after a dance?
9. How long before an occasion should a girl be asked for a date?
10. Should a girl ask a boy for his awards for sports such as football or basketball?
11. Should a girl return the awards after a break of friendship?
12. What time do your parents expect you to be home?
13. Should a girl refuse to dance with a boy who asks her?
14. Do you expect punch at a dance?
15. Should a boy smoke on a date?
16. At formal dances should girls dance together?
17. Would the girls object, at formal dances, if couples *only* could come?
18. Should a girl brought by a boy dance only one or two dances with him? If not, how many?
19. What form would you like the boy to use to ask for a date?

20. What form should be used in asking for a dance?
21. What kind of decorations would you suggest for a dance?
22. How should a boy say good-night?
23. What kind of clothes should a boy wear at a dance?
24. About what per cent of the girls in high school would like to get married as soon as possible after graduation?
25. Would the girls like to help the Hi-Y boys learn how to dance, after basketball is over, some afternoons from 3:30 to 5:00?

## The Answers

1. If a group of boys and girls go together, a Dutch treat is the thing. For example, after a basketball game or a play, or trips of clubs. If a boy definitely asks a girl for a date on a specific night or time, it should not be Dutch. If a high school boy dates a girl for a show or dance it isn't necessary to take the girl to the restaurant afterward. The cost of the date should be the price of the function attended.
2. The girls do not object to being tagged at a high school dance after they have danced a few moments with their partner. The girls do not object to dancing with boys who aren't good dancers.
3. The right amount of both makes a worthwhile evening.
4. The girls themselves do not mind the boys bringing outside girls, but it often leaves out a lot of our own girls.
5. The boy should always come to the home of the girl and go to the door. It is correct to converse a few moments with the girl's parents. It is never correct to honk in front of the girl's home.
6. The girl should consider her parents' objections very seriously before disobeying them.
7. It is not expected of the boy to have a car for a date.
8. Answered in Question 1.

(Continued on page 422)



# WORLD AT PLAY

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## A "Pay-As-You-Go" Recreation Plan

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AS the result of a charter amendment, Portland, Oregon, will levy a city tax of four-tenths of a mill for ten years to finance the development of public recreational areas such as neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and playfields. The program will follow a systematic plan and will be financed on a pay-as-you-go basis. No project will be approved by the City Council until the City Planning Commission in cooperation with community organizations has prepared and submitted a detailed plan of execution, including a list of projects based on relative needs. The new levy is estimated to produce slightly over \$100,000 a year based on present valuations. Acquisition and improvements will be made gradually throughout the ten year period beginning in 1939 and will be financed out of current revenues. The city and the school district, a separate unit of government, have also taken steps to set up a joint committee for the purpose of bringing about a closer coordination of recreational facilities of the two governmental units. (Information taken from *Public Management*, June 1939.)

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## From Coffee Beans to Playground

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JACKSONVILLE'S new playground, Victory Park, is the fifteenth complete play area of the city and the second one dedicated within a period of six weeks. Victory Park was built as a project of the WPA, sponsored by the local Department of Public Recreation. The playground site was once a desolate patch of ground covered with coffee beans which grew ten feet high. Today, in the place of the coffee beans, there is a beautifully landscaped park and a modern play area. Completely fenced, the area contains a shelter house, a set of six swings, two shuffleboard courts and horseshoe courts. The main facility is a concrete combination play court which affords an opportunity to play basketball and volleyball, dance and roller skate. All facilities are lighted by floodlights for night use. An open play area with a clay softball diamond serves teams in the vicinity. In addition to the regular organized play activities for children, the baseball leagues and activities of the employees of nearby large indus-

trial plants will be carried on at the Victory Playground, newest center in this Florida community.

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## Reading's Municipal Symphony Orchestra

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THE Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra of Reading, Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Department of Public Recreation, concluded its season in May with a concert including selections from Wagner, Bizet, Brahms, and Mozart. The orchestra will continue its activities next year beginning with a concert in October.

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## Columbia Initiates Recreation Program

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THE city of Columbia, Missouri, last January initiated a year-round recreation program with a budget of \$8,800. The community has responded enthusiastically to the Recreation Commission's efforts to provide a broad program of activities and is participating wholeheartedly in the activities which are being promoted. In the few months of its existence the Commission has sponsored junior basketball leagues, a downtown newsboy center, a summer music camp, weekly band concerts, three adult softball leagues, a girls' softball league, and a craft program. Junior baseball, movies, parties, nature activities, camping, and a variety of special events have been conducted. Among the facilities are two community houses, two swimming pools, and six playgrounds for colored and white children. Kenneth Osman is director of the program.

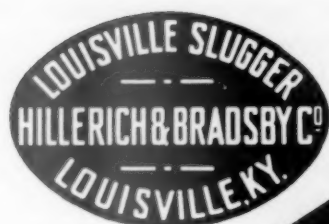
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## Dancing Through the Summer

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CLOSING the fourth summer of dance instruction under the Recreation Department, Provo City, Utah, witnessed a Dance Review, "Dancing Through the Ages," featuring 500 boys and girls. Held in the largest auditorium in the city, the review attracted a capacity crowd a half hour before the show was scheduled.

The dancing lessons, in which 2,650 in a city of 16,000 participated in one week, were given free to boys and girls between five and eighteen from June 1st to August 15th. Creative, tap, clog, folk, ballet, eccentric, character, natural and modern were the types taught. Two or three lessons a



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week, each thirty or forty-five minutes long, were given to each group of twenty children, with two hours daily devoted to boys and girls who wanted special help. Classes were held each day at four centers, plus two evenings a week for adult instruction.

Private dance teachers reported an increase of fifty per cent in interest shown in the schools since the inception of the dance program in the local recreation department.

**Gardening Unites School and Home**—Convinced that gardening is a form of recreation, Paul R. Young of the Cleveland Garden Center believes that school gardening becomes the connecting link between the school and the home. Gardening as a school project was introduced into Cleveland schools through science courses. More than 16,000 youngsters in 132 schools are now participating. The training is included in the regular science classes, and instructors make two visits a year to the children's homes to observe their gardens. Each child pays a small enrollment fee for membership in the garden home project, and these funds cover the cost of seeds and plants, secured at a great saving by buying in bulk. Mr. Young states that the project pays dividends other than the garden. The project is voluntary but has been accepted by a large percentage of pupils and parents as well, making it most important to school curriculum. The contacts of teachers and parents, occurring when the teachers visit their pupils' gardens, are valuable both for good will and for planning in the school system.

**Religious Drama Institute**—The Religious Drama Council of the Greater New York Federation of Churches, 71 West 23rd Street, New

York City, announces a religious drama institute which will include acting, directing, costuming, staging, lighting, voice, and movement. The institute will be held on six Thursday evenings from October 5th to November 9th at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. The course will include a demonstration of the casting and directing of a Christmas play.

**A New Portable Folding Stand**—After several years of experimentation, the Mitchell Manufacturing Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has placed on the market a portable folding stand for use of bands, orchestras, and choral groups. The stand is entirely portable and can be readily moved from one place to another. It is made up of units, each eight by four feet, in three or four elevations depending on individual requirements. The units are supported by steel tubular legs of special design which fold into the apron of the individual platform in such a way that the total folded thickness is only two and a half inches. A minimum storage space is required as the corner pieces also fold and the guard rail around the back and sides is demountable. The stand may be set up and taken down in a very short time by only two people.

**American Education Week, 1939**—"Education for the American Way of Life" will be the general theme for the nineteenth annual observance of American Education Week to be held November 6-11, 1939. The observance will be sponsored by the National Education Association in cooperation with the American Legion, the United States Office of Education and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and with the support of many other organizations. As

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in previous years, the National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., has prepared material including colorful posters, leaflets, stickers, and packets containing special folders for each day of the week adapted to different school levels. Further information may be secured from the National Education Association.

**Book Week, 1939** — November 12-18 will mark the observance of the 1939 Book Week when magazines, newspapers, and radio networks will carry the story of Book Week to a large audience. The theme around which programs, exhibits, and discussions will be planned is "Books Around the World." Suggestions for special projects keyed to this year's theme will be found

### Credit to Fitchburg

We want to call to our readers' attention the fact that the photograph which appeared on page 315 of the September issue of RECREATION should have been credited to the Board of Park Commissioners of Fitchburg, Massachusetts. It shows an interior view of the fireplace room in the Memorial Building of Cogshall Park.

in the free Book Week manual available from Book Week Headquarters, 62 West 45th Street, New York City. Other helps available from the same address are a new poster 17 by 22 inches, obtainable at 20 cents a copy; bookmarks at \$1.50 a thousand; "The Magic Carpet," a four page newspaper containing articles, a variety of information about books and reading, special book lists, and a book quiz at \$7.00 a thousand.

### "Come and See Lincoln's Youth Program"

*(Continued from page 379)*

hopes to develop from this club, which is made up largely of young married couples, leadership for similar outings of younger folk.

### Play Areas Attractive to Youth

In summer a large playing field known to everyone as "Muny" is very popular and draws many young people who come partly because of the games and partly for the opportunity to meet and play with each other. An instructor from the University physical education department for men was employed last summer to supervise the activities of the grounds. He had a very well attended program which met the needs of young people some of whom have little else to do in the way of leisure-time amusements. Now, instead of just hanging over the fence or walking about, boys and girls are playing together.

Among the most popular pastimes for mixed groups at Muny were volleyball, shuffleboard and table tennis (played under lights). Night lighting of this area has added greatly to its service to the community.

Several additional playgrounds were lighted last summer and new equipment and games suitable for use under lights introduced. There was noticeable increase of interest in the community as a whole as well as among young men and women. The lights not only provided for longer periods of play but for a different type of activity—one more suitable for couples, and with greater social appeal. We hope to enlarge upon these out-of-door facilities for we feel that the lighted areas are a specific answer to co-recreational needs.

### Training Social Recreation Leaders Can Be Fun!

*(Continued from page 380)*

thusiastic and with the human touch that makes people want to sing. The last member, but by no



means the least, of the team, was to be the pianist to accompany the community singing as well as the musical games.

This plan was put into effect with great success. A new team was selected each month, preferably all from the same organization, thus building up permanent teams. This plan also permitted a great many to participate in actual leadership, and by dividing the duties up among six people the novice leaders would not be required to face the frightening task of conducting an hour's program alone. Each team met with the superintendent of recreation at least once before each party to plan it and in this way gained additional experience in finding and assembling material.

Mimeographed copies of the party were made in the recreation office, and, following the presentation of the program, were distributed free of charge to all attending. In addition, they were used as monthly service bulletins and distributed from the recreation office to all individuals or organizations desiring help. To encourage attendance, postcards were mailed preceding each party to all individuals who had signified interest, and newspaper articles were published announcing the program.

The most valuable part of each party was the informal discussion conducted for a few minutes at the close of the program. A post-mortem, as it were, with the various leaders offering constructive criticism and offering suggestions for future parties. Party themes that were presented the first season were as follows: November, Thanksgiving; December, Christmas; January, Valentine; February, Washington's Birthday; March, St. Patrick's Day; April, Spring; and May, an outdoor campfire party.

This season, although the same holiday theme may be used in some cases, the material presented will all be new. The leaders, by saving the mimeographed programs each month, will find at the end of the season that they have a complete notebook on social recreation arranged in seasonal order.

The results of this plan are very interesting. First, the attendance grew from seventeen at the first party to thirty-five at the second and over sixty at the third. This peak attendance held up fairly well during the winter months then dropped off in the late spring. Programs were discontinued during the summer months of June, July, and August. Second, many new leaders became interested and after attending one party continued

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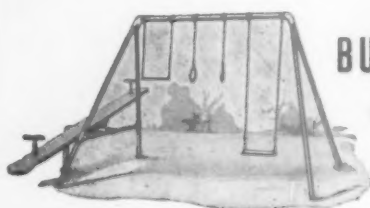
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coming to others that were offered. Third, the month after the parties started we noticed a definite decrease in the number of requests made to the recreation office for social recreation leadership. This led us to believe that these monthly programs were being used when the leaders returned to their own organizations. Fourth, through the use of different churches, different leaders, and the postcard announcement system each month, the department has gained many new friends and has developed within the community a keener appreciation of social recreation.

We express our sincere thanks to the National Recreation Association who through one of their field representatives helped us to discover this excellent method of training our volunteer leaders. To those who may be interested in trying this plan I earnestly recommend the booklet published by the Association entitled "Parties—Plans and Programs" edited by Ethel Bowers. It contains, not only an excellently arranged fund of social recreation material, but also a more detailed outline of the organization of social recreation teams than it was possible to include here.

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## Social Dancing in the Co-Recreation Program

(Continued from page 384)

floor. In that way each person secures a partner. Sometimes we have them exchange partners on the floor; occasionally we have what we call a "blind dance" in which the boys come in from behind one side and the girls from the other side of a corner, and no one can see who his partner will be until they meet at a common point. We tend to mix in more boys' choices as we have gone along and fewer dances by chance are used. Occasionally we have had a ladies' choice, but in general we have been trying to teach the boys to take the initiative and conduct themselves as they would at regular social dances.

As a climax to the eight weeks course, we conclude with a formal dance. On that day we have the boys all wear coats which are to represent tuxedos. The boys are given programs and they are requested to make out the programs and take care of their partners throughout the entire period just as if they were at a formal affair.

At the conclusion of this eight weeks period we have noted the following improvements. Both the

boys and girls have improved their dancing considerably and many who were stiff and lacked rhythm have smoothed out both their movements and their timing. Practically all of them have gained in social approach and the boys and girls converse between dances instead of separating into different corners. The general conduct of dancing has improved a good deal. The attitude of the boys and girls towards each other is more spontaneous and wholesome. We at Emerson feel that of all our co-recreational programs, this is one of the very best.

## A Symposium on Social Dancing

(Continued from page 385)

music is played most of the time. To high school age boys and girls, this is important, for they do not like to wait during intermissions. The dances are supervised very carefully by the recreation staff; although about twenty dances have been held, no trouble has been reported. The townspeople have commented favorably on these affairs, saying that they take the young people off the streets and put them into healthy surroundings where they dance themselves tired. There is no charge for these dances. From *Chase Hammond*, Director of Recreation, Albion, Michigan.

**Friday Night Dances in Richmond.** Friday night dances are outstanding events in the recreation program of Richmond, Virginia. Tickets of admission are given older boys and girls attending two of the recreation centers on the east side of Richmond, and the dances are attended chiefly by young people from fifteen to eighteen years of age. The use of the schools is made possible through the superintendent of schools; the Council of Social Agencies pays the salary of the director and an assistant or two, and the Recreation Department and the WPA furnish the other workers. An orderly, enjoyable dance is the result of this joint planning.

**One Public Auditorium Used for Dances of Local Groups.** Young people of Portland, Oregon, attend evening neighborhood recreation classes many of which are held in the public schools. Instead of using the school buildings for neighborhood dances for these young folks, the city recreation department invites the various groups to schedule dances in the ballroom of the Public Auditorium. Thus each district's dancing enthusiasts have the best of dancing facilities and leadership, and the dance is as much their own as if held in their local community. There is no admission charge; directors in charge of the buildings merely sign, as

hosts, the invitation blanks. This arrangement is made possible by cooperation of the city department of public affairs. From *Dorothea Lensch*, Director of Recreation.

## Clubs Further Co-Recreational Objectives

(Continued from page 393)

parties have been held in most of the lakes in the region about Schenectady. Hikes have been announced for Wolf Hollow, Lishas Kill, Vrooman's Nose, Plotter Kill, Devil's Punch Bowl and Countryman's Hill, Indian Ladder, and Verf Kill. This means that the club has become acquainted with the hills and valleys for several miles around. "There will be either skating or skiing each Saturday afternoon, depending on weather conditions," read the announcement in January, and February added a real sleigh ride.

### Week Ends

Very much of the Otyokwa fun comes in the week-end outings. In August this past year there was a two-day camping trip to Sand Point camp site on Schroon Lake. In September the Labor Day week end was spent in a canoe trip through the Saranac Lakes. Twenty-eight signed up for the trip and twelve canoes were used. Early in October the camping trip was in the region of Mt. Marcy and the mountain climbers had their choice of Marcy, Colden and McIntyre. Over the New Year week end some thirty-five club members skied at Aiden Lair.

### Special Interest Groups

Aside from these events open to the whole club, there are special interest groups as demand for them arises. This past year there have been three special interests. One, popular for several years, was a music appreciation group. Square dancing became a real hobby with a large number of the club members, and the announcement of a ball-room dancing class brought out a large and enthusiastic crowd which carried on for about ten weeks. In former years there have been book study groups, a photographic group, one in the early history of the Mohawk Valley section of New York, a French group, various dramatic groups, and a choral group—in fact, the Special Interests Committee keeps its ear to the group and hastens to promote any interest for which they can find enough followers.

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ered a wide field of activities, has had many headaches as well as many satisfactions, and has reached some conclusions as to essentials. Among these essentials the following may be listed:

1. A balanced active participating membership is imperative. The man who belong to the Otyokwa Club have classes and study in connection with their work and can not be as regular in attendance on some nights of the week as the women. This means that the membership list should tend in the direction of a larger number of men than women.



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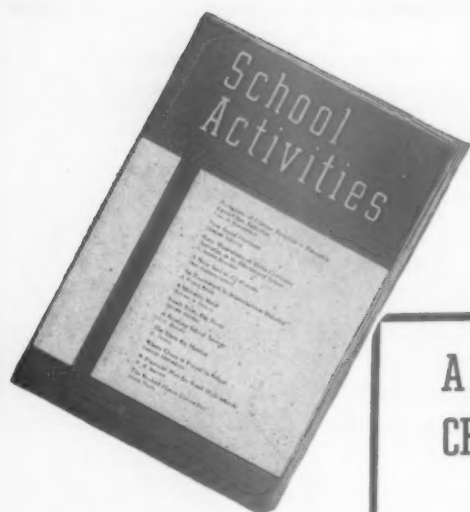
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# School Activities

HARRY C. McKOWN, Editor

C. R. VAN NICE, Managing Editor

## A Journal of Ideas and Projects for the School as a CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP LABORATORY

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Student Council, Clubs, Home Rooms, Athletics, Music, Debate, Publications, Trips, Dramatics, Assembly, Financing Activities, and Social Functions make democratic settings and life situations typical of the American way of living and working together.

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2. Married persons are admitted to membership only when both husband and wife are interested. When a member marries a non-member, the new husband or wife automatically becomes a member.

3. A membership larger than sixty or seventy tends to become unwieldy.

4. A varied program is necessary.

5. Club responsibilities should be as evenly distributed between men and women as possible.

6. All outings and parties are expected to pay for themselves—that is, expenses for such events are apportioned among those who participate. Members who use their cars for transportation are paid a definite rate per mile.

7. Groups are expected to stay together on mountain climbing trips.

8. All parts of the program are for all of the members. The club has been proud of the fact that "pairing off" is not important. If at times there seems to be a tendency in the direction of too much pairing, definite efforts are made by planning committees to counteract it.

## Introducing Boys and Girls to Co-Recreation

*(Continued from page 394)*

end of the volleyball season. Through the co-operation of two members of the physical education department, the boys and girls who are leaders in the Junior class were arranged in mixed teams and played a round robin tournament within one leader's period. Although the girls were hesitant at first, it was not long before they entered into the game wholeheartedly, and when the physical education classes were combined in the same way, these leaders were helpful and enthusiastic. Again, in anticipation of a seventh grade party, the two sets of leaders danced the Virginia Reel together. The girls had previously been taught the dance, and they were a great help in teaching the boys. On the evening of the party when it was necessary to organize a large group of children, there was a definite nucleus around which to build. Working with leaders' groups is an ideal way to start, because small groups lend themselves more readily to experimentation.

However, many schools use leaders in class without having the opportunity of meeting a mixed leaders' group. In this case the leaders will still be of untold assistance if they understand fully beforehand how the program is to be presented.

In classes handled with no assistance from student leaders, the program for a day of co-recreation must be worked out in detail ahead of time, and a foundation should be laid in the preceding physical education period to prevent confusion and excitement from outweighing the value of participation.

Whether the teachers have entire responsibility or whether they have students to assist them, there are certain fundamental rules to follow in organizing a class with co-recreation as its basis: (1) the activity must be one that all may enter and all will enjoy; (2) rules must be adapted to a mixed group, some regulations may be added, or, as in volleyball, boys and girls may abide by their respective rules; and, (3) mixed teams, arranged so that they will contribute most to the success of the program must be planned in advance. Each teacher knows her particular situation best; she will know whether she wants all teams of equal ability, or several classes of teams. The planning must necessarily be done by the instructors of both groups beforehand.

In conclusion, we must accept the fact that co-recreation may take root gradually, and the real results will not show immediately. The three main essentials for the success of the program are cooperation, a real desire to make co-recreation popular, and careful planning, which cannot be stressed too much. Every teaching situation is different and each approach may vary in detail. However, by following the general outlines that others have found workable, a teacher will soon find that she can build her program from her own experiences. These experiences are going to give her the best foundation for a successful program of co-recreation.

## The Evolution of Flint's Co-Ed Night

(Continued from page 397)

center experimented with some group counseling. Discussions were held following talks, some group tests were given and opportunities offered for individual tests. It was not particularly successful from the standpoint of attendance, but some good contacts were made, the director reports, and some follow-ups have been made at the center. Perhaps it was too new for the members to understand

## Magazines and Pamphlets

( Recently Received Containing Articles  
of Interest to the Recreation Worker )

### MAGAZINES

#### *Parks and Recreation*, June 1939

"Planning the Recreational Swimming Pool"  
by C. P. L. Nicholls

#### *School and Society*, June 17, 1939

"What the Future Holds" by Professor Marvin L. Darsie, University of California

#### *The Camping Magazine*, June 1939

"Tipi Camping" by W. M. Harlow

"Camera Campers and the Camera Counselor"  
by Elizabeth G. Look

"A Study of Camp Accidents" by Light for Life Foundation and the American Camping Association

#### *Hygeia*, July 1939

"Camp Counsel" by Lawrence Riggs. Gives expert advice on many aspects of camping that are often unobserved by counselors and children alike. For example, the effect of a higher altitude on the physical condition of children, the necessity for sleep and adequate rest.

"The Psychology of Loafing" by Kenneth P. Wood. This is a plea for cultivating the ability to cast aside completely the care of business with a view to enjoying nature or absolute quiet without boredom.

"Highway Health" by Beulah France. Cautions against the lurking dangers of food and drink likely to be found on the common highways.

#### *Student Life*, April 1939

"Camp Life at Home" by Sid Katz

"This is Youth Hosteling" by Margaret J. Brown

#### *Beach and Pool*, July 1939

"How to Stage Annual Swim Week"  
by Herbert Allphin

"Principles and Design of the Water Level Deck Pool" by William P. Campbell

#### *Youth Leaders Digest*, July 1939

"Shall We Play to Win?—Or Just for Fun?"

"The Professional Preparation of Recreation Leaders" by Dr. Edwin L. Haislet

"Indicted!" by George Hjelte

#### *Parks and Recreation*, August 1939

"Casting Pool Answer to Angler's Prayer"

"Archery Comes to Essex County" by L. C. Wilsey

#### *The Child*, July 1939

"A Museum for Children" by Mrs. William L. Garrison

"Museum Facilities for Children"

#### *Character and Citizenship*, September 1939

"Democracy and Education" by Robert M. Hutchins  
"Recreation and the 'Mormon' Church" by T. Edgar Lyon

"Some Emotional Needs of the Child" by Clarence G. Moser

"The Evaluation of Propaganda" by Henry O. Evjen

**School Activities, September 1939**

"Activities and Projects of Student Councils"  
by C. C. Harvey

**The Guardian, September 1939**

"A Caravan Party" by Catherine Lee Wahlstrom

**PAMPHLETS****Annual Report 1938**

Onondaga County Park and Regional Planning  
Board, Syracuse, N. Y.

**Annual Report 1938**

Department of Public Recreation, Board of  
Education, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

**Report 1938**

Playground Athletic League, Baltimore, Maryland

**Annual Report 1938**

Park and Recreation Divisions, Toledo, Ohio

**Annual Report 1938**

Playground and Recreation Department, Santa  
Monica, California

**Report of the Board of Recreation Commissioners for  
1937 and 1938 Elizabeth, N. J.****Fourth Annual Report**

New Jersey State Planning Board 1938, Trenton,  
N. J.

**Wisconsin State Planning Board and Conservation  
Commission—Bulletin No. 8**

A Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Plan,  
Madison, Wisconsin, 1939

**First Progress Report**

Louisiana State Planning Commission, Baton Rouge,  
La., April 1938

**Use of Roofs for Play**

Otto T. Mallery, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Recreation Association, is anxious to secure information on play roofs constructed on one-family houses. If any of our readers are familiar with such projects, may we not hear from them?

what it was all about, and since there was no placement bureau connected with it, those who had the most need of such counseling could least see its value because there was not immediate help.

A dramatics group has been tried almost every year with varying success according to the ability of the director. This year has been one of the very best, and perhaps more has been done in the way of creative dramatics than at any other time. The best production undoubtedly was a skit about the Y.W.C.A. given at the annual dinner for Association members and friends. It was adapted from Barbara Abel's "Follow the Leadership" and not only got ideas across to the members with

good humor, but made the co-ed group much more conscious of being part of a large organization and familiar with some of its underlying philosophy.

After the classes, the last two hours, from 9:30 to 11:30, are spent dancing in the gymnasium. An informal atmosphere prevails here too, as more come "stag" than with dates. Various mixers and tag dances are used to help get everyone on the floor. The same young woman is at the door every time to take tickets and they have learned that she will enforce the Council's rules of checking wraps and no smoking except in corridors. There is no other apparent supervision, but a staff member is always present.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of young people have come and gone in these years. Some we have not known at all, some long enough and intimately enough so that we know their Y.W.C.A. contacts have helped them in problems of job, personal appearance, family and marriage adjustments. Some perhaps have stayed too long in this program and should be moving on to new interests and greater responsibility in the community. We believe that most of them are better fitted to take their places in society because of the time spent at the Y.W.C.A.

**It's Easy to Have Fun!**

(Continued from page 401)

whose membership was due to him or to some one whom he had interested. As a result of this type of contagious enthusiasm we are faced with the problem of just how large we should permit the club to grow. Is there a limit beyond which a group like this can not go and still maintain its characteristic friendliness and informality? Should we take in all who are interested or should we maintain a numerical balance between the two sexes? We have decided on the latter and keep a waiting list of whichever sex is in the ascendant.

The spread of information by our "satisfied customers" also resulted in inquiries by folks of all ages. We decided to keep it a young people's group and therefore will not admit any one over thirty-five. Our one notable exception is a man sixty-two years of age who is affectionately called "Pop" by the rest of us, and who can climb New England's highest mountain at the head of the line. He holds our only honorary life membership.



Another problem which accompanies a growing membership and an increasing number of activities is that of leadership. With thirty-eight events in one month it is clearly impossible for one leader to cover all of them. Out of the club has emerged a group of young men who have demonstrated the qualities of leadership. They have been selected by the planning committee. They accept assignments of events and take their responsibility seriously. They meet regularly to discuss the techniques involved in leadership, to exchange experiences and to help each other with problems which have arisen. We do not think of the leader as playing the role of a policeman. Rather is he the "tour conductor" who handles the details, collects the money, gives the signal to move on to the next activity, handles emergencies, and does all in his power to give the folks the time of their lives.

## Along Comes Hallowe'en!

(Continued from page 407)

### Refreshments

#### MENU No. 1

Deviled Ham Sandwiches

Black Olives

Ginger Ale and Grape Juice Punch

Orange Cups with Orange Sherbet

*Orange Cups.* Cut off top of oranges and scoop out pulp. Keep orange shell in water until ready to use. Dry out before using.

#### MENU No. 2

Man-in-the-Moon Cookies

Pie Faces                      Witches' Punch

*Witches' Punch.* Use grape juice to get dark color.

*Pie Faces.* Individual pumpkin pies with chocolate faces.

#### MENU No. 3

Assorted Sandwiches

Olives                      Pickles                      Cheese

Doughnuts                      Cider

Salted Peanuts                      Candy

### A Brief Bibliography

(Obtainable from National Recreation Association)

*Plays, Pantomimes and Other Entertainment Material for Hallowe'en.* A bibliography. Free

*Fun for Hallowe'en.* A seventeen page bulletin including activities and ideas sufficient for several Hallowe'en parties, as well as entertainment numbers for an auditorium or club program. \$.25

*Peter Pumpkin Eater,* by Marion Holbrook. A short play for young boys and girls. Only the spell cast by a pumpkin shell house makes Peter's wife stay at home. \$.15

*Hallowe'en Gambols,* by Marion Holbrook. Traditional Hallowe'en characters appear before Mephistopheles and report on the success of their evening travels. Folk dance groups. Festive court scene. \$.10

## Exhibits at the Congress

THERE WILL BE interesting educational and commercial exhibits at the Twenty-Fourth National Recreation Congress which delegates will not want to miss. They will be located in the ball-room foyer of the Statler Hotel, Boston, headquarters of the Congress, and it is hoped that all delegates will examine the exhibits and learn about them through the representatives of the co-operating agencies and firms. For your convenience in locating the exhibits the booth numbers are given.

Name and Address	Booth Number
Abingdon Press—New York City.....	24 and 25
American Youth Hostels, Inc.—Northfield, Mass.	29
Association of American Playing Card Manufacturers—New York City .....	26
Association Press—New York City.....	24 and 25
A. S. Barnes and Company—New York City..	18
Benjamin Electric Manufacturing Company—Des Plaines, Ill. ....	21 and 22
Boy Scouts of America—New York City.....	28
J. E. Burke Company, The—Fond du Lac, Wis.	11
Chicago Recreation Commission .....	7
Cokesbury Press—Nashville, Tenn. ....	24 and 25
Cornell University Extension Service—Ithaca, N. Y. ....	32
Everwear Manufacturing Company, The—Springfield, Ohio .....	1
Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture—Washington, D. C. ....	33
P. Goldsmith Sons, Inc., The—Cincinnati, Ohio	27
Hillerich and Bradsby Company—Louisville, Ky.	16
Law Pipe Railing Corporation—Long Island City, N. Y. ....	38
Model Yacht Association—Eastern Division...	30
Magnus Brush and Craft Materials, Inc.—Wakefield, Mass. ....	39
National Billiard Association—Chicago, Ill....	40
National Golf Foundation—Chicago, Ill.....	31
National Recreation Association—Arts and Crafts .....	34 and 35
J. E. Porter Corporation—Ottawa, Ill.....	19 and 20
Prentice Hall, Inc.—New York City.....	24 and 25
Public Affairs Committee, Inc.—New York City	24 and 25
A. G. Spalding & Bros.—New York City.....	14
U. S. Housing Authority—Washington, D. C...	4 and 5
University of Chicago Press .....	24 and 25
W. J. Voit Rubber Corporation—Los Angeles, Cal. ....	10
Wilson Sporting Goods Company—Chicago, Ill..	23
Womans Press—New York City.....	24 and 25

## A Business Executive Turns Park Administrator

(Continued from page 408)

At his call the operating family assembled. Revolutionary change was in the air, but here was

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- Leaders of Youth Clubs and Activities
- Directors of Recreation

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### You Asked for It!

(Continued from page 411)

9. At least a week before a dance; a day or two before a show.
10. Absolutely no. A girl should not ask a boy for his athletic awards.
11. The girl should offer to return the boy's pins or letters after the break-off of friendship.
12. If they go home immediately, the girl should be home in half an hour after the function. If they go to the restaurant they will need more time.
13. The girls should not refuse a dance unless she already has the dance. It is correct for the girl to tell the boy when she has a dance free.
14. Not necessary.
15. If not objectionable to the girl.
16. Unless you restrict to only couples attending.
17. This leads to our boys inviting our own girls.
18. Dance every third or fourth dance and always the first and last dance.
19. Appear in person and very politely ask her for a date.
20. May I have the next dance with you?
21. Appropriate for month, season, and type of dance.
22. Just a simple good-night.
23. Usually a "Sunday Suit."
24. At this time, not interested.
25. Will aid at any time.

## New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

### The Complete Swimmer

By Harold S. Ulen and Guy Larcom, Jr. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$3.00.

**F**ROM THEIR EXPERIENCE, one as swimming coach at Harvard College and the other as competitor, the authors have written an up-to-date and practical account of how to become a competent swimmer. The beginner, as well as the average swimmer and competitor, will find much practical help in this book. There are over a hundred photographs and drawings illustrating the text.

### Yachting with Models

By John Black. Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York. \$3.50.

**T**HIS VOLUME is designed for use as an instruction book and contains general information about hull construction, types of fittings, the making of sails, and the actual sailing of the model. The author tells what tools and equipment are needed and gives the step-by-step procedure for the three principal ways of making the hull. There are suggestions for organizing a model yacht club.

### A Textbook of Physical Education

By Jesse Feiring Williams, M.D., Sc.D. and Whitelaw Reid Morrison, M.D. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia. \$2.75.

**T**HE SECOND EDITION of this book is fully up to date, and numerous changes and additions appear both in text and illustrations. The volume will serve its purpose of "arousing in the student a genuine appreciation of the need for recreational facilities, as well as to give an adequate education in recreational skills." Throughout the book the author has emphasized the importance of developing an intelligent regard for the physical activities that play so large a part in our daily lives.

### Sources of Free and Inexpensive Teaching Aids

By Bruce Miller. Ontario Junior High School, Ontario, California. \$1.00.

**B**RIEF DESCRIPTIONS are given regarding the sources mentioned and information on how the material may be secured. This list of material covers many subjects, including arts, crafts, birds, foods, electricity, health, and hobbies.

### Youth in European Labor Camps

By Kenneth Holland. American Council on Education, Washington, D. C. \$2.50.

**T**HIS STUDY of work camps in European countries was prepared for the American Youth Commission of the American Council on Education. Tracing as it does the growth and present status of work camps abroad, the vol-

ume should be of real value to all who are concerned with the social, educational, and political significance of the camps in our own country.

Labor camps have been in existence since 1920. They now seem to be a permanent part of the world program for the care and training of youth.

### Perspective Made Easy

By Ernest R. Norling. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.40.

**T**HIS BOOK, illustrated by 271 drawings by the author, is a treatment of line perspective for beginning students in freehand drawing. The material is arranged in a series of sequential steps, which makes the learning of perspective simple.

### Making Good Before Forty

By Walter B. Pitkin. Robert M. McBride and Company, New York. \$2.00.

**I**F YOU ARE LOOKING for new ways of making good in both your private and business life, here are helpful hints. "A guide to successful living," the book contains suggestions for well rounded leisure-time pursuits and hobbies, and in the author's opinion the essence of well rounded leisure lies in "doing what you can and what gives you satisfaction with the skills and abilities used in your working life."

### What Councils of Social Agencies Do

Bulletin No. 100 of a Series on Community Planning. Community Chests and Councils, Inc., New York City. \$1.00.

**A** CLEAR STATEMENT of the objectives and activities of councils of social agencies based on a study of twelve large cities. The report shows many variations in what councils do and points out that local structure and action must be based on local situations.

### Meeting the Needs of the Mentally Retarded

Bulletin No. 420. Department of Public Instruction, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg.

**C**LASSES FOR THE mentally retarded have been in operation in Pennsylvania for forty-five years, and the purpose of the program has been "to capitalize each child's special abilities and to minimize his defects so that he may live happily and effectively." This booklet is an exceedingly practical one, dealing as it does with the establishment of classes, courses of study, methods, classroom organization, and similar subjects. Emphasis is laid on the importance of health and recreation activities for the mentally retarded, and the recommendation is made that at least an hour of each day's program or its equivalent be devoted to health and physical education.



**Health Facts for College Students.**

By Maude Lee Etheredge, M.D. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia. \$2.00.

In the third edition of Dr. Etheredge's book every chapter has been revised to conform to present-day knowledge, and two entirely new chapters have been added. A chapter on Work, Leisure and Play stresses the importance of recreation. "The challenge for the college student to meet the increased leisure confronting America today becomes great. He must meet it for himself and help meet it for his family and his community."

**A Study of Education in the Civilian Conservation Corps Camps of the Second Corps Area.**

By Samuel F. Harby, Ph.D. Edwards Brothers, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan. \$1.50.

In presenting the results of his study, Dr. Harby first establishes a background against which the considerations which follow stand out in relief. He then shows factually what educational activities are being offered in the camps and gives an interpretation of the program. In a chapter on Informal Leisure-Time Activities Dr. Harby tells of the program of sports, music, dramatics, arts and crafts.

**"Your Neighborhood Club."**

A Manual for Group Leaders, by Gregg and Himmer. Association Press, New York City. \$60.

This Manual for Group Leaders, a booklet of 108 pages, will meet a growing demand for detailed guidance in the setting up of neighborhood groups of boys—the influence of leadership, the nature of the program to be administered, the objectives to be sought, records to be kept and a host of other suggestions as to membership, financing, interpretation, club relationships and relationship of boys' leaders to parents in communities. There is special emphasis on the relation of such boys' groupings to training in the democratic processes of citizenship. The book will be helpful not only to boys' workers in Y.M.C.A.'s but to all those who have the problem of setting up and conducting neighborhood boys' groups.

**"Let Me Think."**

By H. A. Overstreet. The Macmillan Company, New York City. \$60.

Why do minds go dead and what can be done to keep minds from dying? What can people do about the unhappiness about them? What is to be gained by trying to do something about that unhappiness aside from the smug satisfaction of helping others? Dr. Overstreet attempts in simple fashion to answer such questions without laying down specific rules. He deals in principles and shows how principles can be applied to life. The chapter, "The Mind as Artist," is especially stimulating and helpful.

**Fun with Words.**

By Jerome S. Meyer. Greenberg, Publisher, New York. \$1.95.

*Fun with Words* is the logical outgrowth of two very popular pencil and paper games—Guggenheim and Alphabet, and it combines the best features of each. A vast amount of research has gone into this book which contains twenty categories, including animals, radio, screen and stage stars, operas, musical instruments, etc. The book will not only serve its primary purpose as a source of entertainment, but it will also prove valuable as a categorical dictionary.

**Knitting Manuals.**

James Lees & Sons Co., Bridgeport, Pennsylvania.

A series of booklets, each discussing in some detail various phases of stitch-craft, accompanied by complete

and easy to understand instructions. One is able to choose from a variety of rugs, the ever popular afghan, sweaters for every member of the family, and other hand-knit costumes of every type.

"Complete Knitting Manual" Volume 44, includes in addition to general instructions fundamental knitting and crochet stitches, models, and instructions covering all kinds of garments. This volume sells for 50¢. Others can be purchased as follows:

- Volumes 1, 2, 3 —Stitches and Styles—50¢ each
- Volume 41 —Juvenile and Baby Book—25¢
- Volume 45 —Styles of the Future—25¢
- Volume 46 —Afghans—25¢
- Volumes 47, 49, 51—Style Book—25¢ each
- Volume 48 —Needlepoint Book—40¢
- Volume 50 —Men's Book—25¢

**Flowers and Still-Life.**

Compiled by J. B. Charles. Studio Publications, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York. \$2.50.

This anthology of paintings is designed for those who are fond of flowers and who appreciate the painter's efforts to make fleeting beauty permanent. It champions no school of painters, but confines itself to reproduction and description of beautiful pictures of every type. There are reproductions of seventeen paintings, sixteen of them in full color.

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# Can You Answer These Questions?

● Mention some of the activities which Camp Fire Girls enjoy with boys. What are the elements which make for success in such joint programs? How do Girl Scout groups entertain their friends? Outline the program of a boys' club in developing co-recreational activities.

*See pages 371-376*

● What constitutes an enjoyable noon hour program for boys and girls of high school age? Describe a Family Night. Outline a program for an outing club.

*See pages 377-379*

● In what ways may a social recreation institute be made to further a program of co-recreation?

*See page 380*

● Outline a method of running summer dances on a club basis, particularly from the point of view of leadership. Suggest a solution to the problem of dancing in the church program. What may schools do to promote dancing classes?

*See pages 381-385*

● Why is it important to have a room where young people may meet informally and what should be the physical equipment of such a room? Mention the types of clubs which may be developed to serve a program of co-recreation. What can be done to meet the needs of young people who are strangers in a city?

*See pages 386-393*

● What should be the objectives of a program of co-recreation in the schools? What forms may class organization on a co-recreational basis take?

*See page 394*

● Suggest a program for a Co-Ed Night and a plan of operation for a program of this type.

*See pages 395-397*

● Describe a program for an outing club for young men and young women maintained by a Y.M.C.A. What may be some of the achievements of such a club properly managed?

*See pages 399-401*

● What five leisure-time activities for college students lead in popularity as shown by a study in a large university? How may student leaders be trained?

*See pages 402-404*

● Describe five games for a Hallowe'en party. Tell how to make five favors.

*See pages 405-407*

● Outline a program for a Hallowe'en celebration in which community and school combine to provide an enjoyable evening free from rowdyism.

*See pages 409-410*

## Essentials of Democracy

**“U**NIVERSAL suffrage, efficient government, material foundations, declaration of rights and education alone can not guarantee the safety of civilization against the storms of passion and the lust of men for power. Behind all beneficent institutions of society, ever helping to sustain them, is that elusive but potent force known as the human spirit. This spirit has ever been affiliated with and expressed in the noblest philosophies that have commanded the allegiance of hearts and minds since the beginnings of civilization. It has been associated with all great religions. Trampled upon by power, crushed by the organization of interests, the humane spirit endures in many forms, under varied professions of faith, and offers the strength of justice and mercy against the effronteries of tyranny and the angers of brute destruction. Without it even democratic government is an empty shell—a numerical counting of heads that may be farcical in procedure and cruel in outcome.

“If our powers are to be effectively applied in sustaining the forms and achieving the ends of popular government, this humane spirit must be cherished and quickened, and ever brought to bear as a dynamic element in the enrichment of life. Knowledge is not enough. Science is not enough. Both may be employed to kill as well as to heal. Accumulated facts, though high as mountains, give us no instruction in human values and the choices of application. It is the humane spirit that points the way to the good life.”

*Dr. Charles A. Beard* in an address at the Congress on Education for Democracy, Columbia University, August 15, 1939.